NEED

Faculty who are interested in commercializing their discoveries or in leading large, interdisciplinary initiatives, often have had little opportunity to gain the skills requisite for the challenges of such ventures.

INITIATIVE

The Burton D. Morgan Center in Purdue’s Discovery Park initiated the Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy in fall 2007. This program, funded as part of the Kauffman Campus Initiatives, has five goals: (1) to increase technology commercialization on the Purdue campus through education about the resources and support available at Purdue and the Purdue Research Park; (2) to enhance the capabilities of faculty who are interested in leading interdisciplinary research programs, centers, and partnerships that might lead to translational activities; (3) to support faculty who are interested in developing entrepreneurial courses or research projects; (4) to create a network of faculty with shared entrepreneurial interests; and (5) to introduce faculty to discussions about leadership skills and contribute to the cadre of the next generation of faculty leaders.

Ten faculty members are competitively selected each year to participate in the Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy. A faculty member from the previous year is selected to serve as the Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy Scholar. Each Fellow receives $5,000 in seed funding for a project; each Scholar receives $15,000 for continued project work.

IMPACTS

The projects are beginning to make a difference at Purdue. Among the 40 projects are the following:

- **Creation of SpeechVive™** to commercialize a wearable device aimed at improving communication in individuals with Parkinson’s Disease.
- **Create a market plan for a lab module using a Purdue-developed miniaturized system for manual DNA sequencing that would enhance the biotechnology curricula of community and small colleges and universities.**
- **Create a student run, university/industry partnership air transportation system at Purdue to provide a living lab to test new business and operational models for the airline industry.**
- **Create GIVE—Genomic Innovations for Vector Eradication—a not-for-profit dedicated to the discovery, development and delivery of modern, safe chemistries to control insect vectors of disease in the developing world.**
- **Creation of Telos Discovery System to market a platform that substantially improves behavioral, neuropsychological, and physiological biomarkers collected as data from research using mice.**
- **Develop and offer graduate courses in entrepreneurship for Biomedical Engineering students which explore advanced topics in contemporary tissue engineering principles, systems and issues, and introduce students to the intricacies of translation from the university setting to small companies.**
- **Create a 2d code enhanced demonstration book that reflects how content can be linked to illustrative sites (see The Chronicle of Higher Education, Wired Campus edition, May 28, 2010, Purdue Professor Embeds Hyperlinks in Printed Books,” http://chronicle.com/blogPost/Purdue-Professor-Embeds-Hyp/24378/).**