The Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy (ELA)

INITIATIVE

Discovery Park's Burton D. Morgan Center initiated the Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy in fall 2007. This program, funded originally 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.

IMPACT

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

- Facilitated the creation of 9 new companies: Telos Discovery Systems; Medtric, GIVE, Tymora, SpeechVive, ActiveLesson, Animated Dynamics, COLD Plasma Solutions, SPEAK MODalities
- Several educational tools – app for instructor in anatomy; web interface for better testing of non-native English speaking students; educational assessment app; living lab for students to develop and test new business and operational models for the airline industry
- Delivery of a simple, economical system for water purification in developing countries.
- Development of a plan to collect needed data and market an interactive breastfeeding monitoring system
- Support for the launch of a project with researchers worldwide focused on breast cancer prevention research
- Commercialization of a bio-wall to improve indoor air quality
- Licensing of an algorithm that will improve hearing aid performance for many individuals
- Development of biomedical engineering graduate courses in entrepreneurship 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
- Work on the creation of student-led micro-business opportunities in developing countries focused on sustainable technologies related to energy, transportation, and agriculture