

TEXAS TECH™ INNOVATION HUB

TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE ANNUAL REPORT

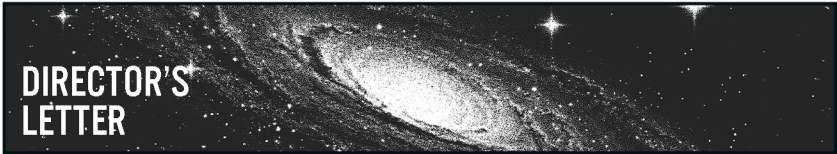


WHERE IDEAS TAKE FLIGHT

FLIGHT MANUAL INDEX

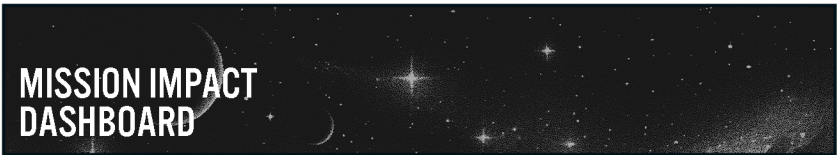
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LETTER



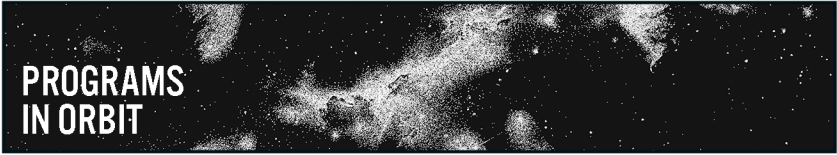
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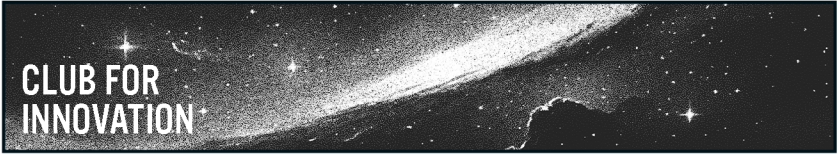
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CLUB FOR
INNOVATION





A MESSAGE FROM MISSION CONTROL

Friends of the Innovation Hub,

Every year at the Innovation Hub brings new ideas, new founders, and new possibilities. That familiar spark of curiosity and exploration continues to guide our community forward.

As we look back on 2025, this year's report theme is space exploration, and it feels especially fitting. Entrepreneurship is the final frontier, a place where bold thinkers launch into the unknown powered by vision, courage, and the belief that things can be better.

Discovery is at the heart of our work. Every workshop, competition, coaching session, and late night in our co-working space helps innovators navigate uncertainty and accelerate ideas that will shape the future of West Texas and beyond.

This year, our community pushed boundaries with orbital energy. Students stepped into leadership roles, founders tested and launched new solutions, and our staff strengthened partnerships and expanded programs. Together, we supported breakthroughs in AI, healthcare, sustainability, agriculture, creative technologies, and more.

The results speak for themselves: startups raised **\$10.3M** in investment capital, bringing our cumulative total to **\$99.5M**; they generated **\$8.5M** in customer revenue and continued creating jobs across the region. And behind it all, **76** mentors have contributed an incredible **45,000** hours to date, **3,600** hours this year alone, our very own mission control guiding each launch.

What inspires us most, though, is watching innovators discover what they're capable of—how their ideas can serve others, how setbacks become launch pads, and how curiosity fuels transformation.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the leaders at Texas Tech University for their unwavering dedication to serving our students, faculty, and community. I also extend heartfelt thanks to the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance for their continued support of our programs and for all they do to strengthen the broader West Texas community. And last, but certainly not least, my sincere appreciation goes to the incredible Innovation Hub team for their relentless pursuit of excellence in supporting our startup community.

Thank you for being part of this journey. With your support, our innovators are ready to push into new frontiers.

Taysha E. Williams

Taysha E. Williams
Managing Director
Texas Tech University Innovation Hub



TAYSHA WILLIAMS

TITLE
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MISSION ROLE
FLIGHT DIRECTOR

MISSION IMPACT
LEADS THE STRATEGIC MISSION TO ADVANCE INNOVATION AND CREATE VENTURES THAT DRIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT.



NATHAN STYLES

TITLE
BUSINESS MANAGER

MISSION ROLE
PAYLOAD COMMANDER

MISSION IMPACT
SAFEGUARDS MISSION RESOURCES AND ASSETS FOR OPERATIONAL SUCCESS.



MALLORY THOMASON

TITLE
LEAD ADMINISTRATOR

MISSION ROLE
SUPPORT COMMANDER

MISSION IMPACT
STRENGTHENS MISSION OPERATIONS BY COORDINATING KEY RESOURCES FOR FOUNDERS.



LENA ZAPPIA

TITLE
DIRECTOR,
COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAMS

MISSION ROLE
COMMERCIALIZATION COMMANDER

MISSION IMPACT
GUIDES INNOVATORS THROUGH THE TRAJECTORY FROM PRODUCT-MARKET FIT TO LAUNCH.



KATHRYN DANKESREITER

TITLE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
PUBLIC RELATIONS

MISSION ROLE
CAPCOM COMMANDER

MISSION IMPACT
GUIDES THE MISSION NARRATIVE TO STRENGTHEN AWARENESS AND EXPAND OUR ORBIT.



RYAN BAIN

TITLE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
IDEATION

MISSION ROLE
LAUNCHPAD COMMANDER

MISSION IMPACT
PROPELS EARLY-STAGE IDEAS TOWARD LIFT-OFF.

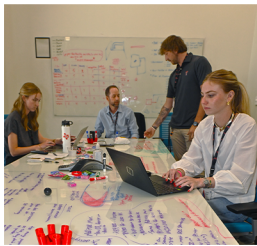
HEADQUARTERS



MISSION DIRECTIVE

The Texas Tech Innovation Hub fuels discovery and economic growth by equipping entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, and mission-ready resources to launch, scale, and build a bold community of innovators.

STARTUP SUPPORT **ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION** **ECONOMIC GROWTH**



FACILITY OVERVIEW

The Innovation Hub is Texas Tech's launchpad for entrepreneurs across West Texas, offering 44,135 square feet of incubator- and accelerator-ready space with offices, co-working, and memberships designed to spark collaboration, development, and venture growth.

CO-WORKING SPACE **MEMBERSHIPS** **OFFICE & LAB SPACE** **EVENT SPACE**



STARTUP COMMUNITY

The Hub's startup community unites mentors, tenants, students, faculty, and alumni through programs and networking that foster connection, knowledge-sharing, and founder success at every stage.

ALUMNI NETWORK **MENTOR PROGRAM** **FACULTY & STUDENT AMBASSADORS** **CLUB FOR INNOVATION**



OPERATIONAL ORBIT

As part of Texas Tech's Office of Research & Innovation, the Innovation Hub operates within a broader innovation ecosystem that includes the Office of Research Commercialization and the Institute for Small Business. Together, we create a clear pathway for faculty, students, and community members to innovate, launch, and generate lasting impact.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS **RESEARCH COMMERCIALIZATION** **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

OPERATIONAL STATS

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS, FACULTY,
& COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED**

23.5K
IN 2025

149.2K
TO DATE

438

**PROGRAMS
THE HUB
HOSTED &
PARTICIPATED IN
IN 2025**

**STARTUPS
CALLING
THE HUB HQ**

23
TENANTS

**GRANTS AWARDED TO
THE INNOVATION HUB**

\$748K
IN 2025

\$5.8M
TO DATE

230

**EXTERNAL
EVENTS HOSTED
IN THE HUB'S
SPACE IN 2025**

57
MEMBERS



Whether you need a custom lab, private office, or a creative place to collaborate, the Texas Tech Innovation Hub is your home base for growth. Join as a tenant or member and become part of West Texas's innovation ecosystem.

Scan the QR code or contact researchpark@ttu.edu for additional information.

MISSION IMPACT DASHBOARD

Real-time data tracking of venture activity, economic output, and mission momentum generated by startups across the Innovation Hub's ecosystem throughout West Texas.

MISSION CREATION SIGNALS

ACCELERATOR PROGRAM
STARTUPS FORMED

13

IN 2025

58

TO DATE



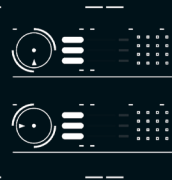
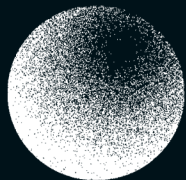
TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS, &
PATENTS CREATED BY HUB STARTUPS

34

IN 2025

285

TO DATE



ECONOMIC OUTPUT SIGNALS

CUSTOMER
REVENUE

\$8.5M

IN 2025

INVESTMENT CAPITAL
RAISED BY STARTUPS

\$10.3M \$99.5M

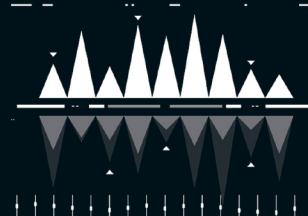
IN 2025

TO DATE

JOBS CREATED
BY STARTUPS

647

TO DATE



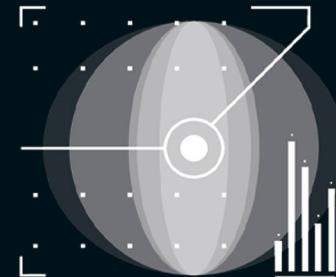
GRANTS AWARDED TO STARTUPS

\$1.4M

IN 2025

\$32.2M

TO DATE



MISSION STATUS :

ALL SYSTEMS GO - VENTURE ECOSYSTEM OPERATING IN STABLE ORBIT

PROGRAMS IN ORBIT

Innovation Hub programs are free and open to the public, ensuring that anyone with an idea has access to the resources needed to pursue innovation. Our **ideation programs** help innovators build momentum by shaping concepts and strengthening early direction. As ideas mature, our **commercialization programs** guide founders through customer discovery and prototype development, enabling them to validate solutions and refine their value propositions. Our **acceleration programs** deliver mentorship, hands-on training, and access to funding to help them launch and scale.

IDEATION

WHERE IDEAS IGNITE AND BEGIN TO GAIN MOMENTUM.

IDEA COMPETITION

Elevator-pitch video showdown; startups compete for public votes.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$3,500

PANTEX INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Undergraduate program to develop solutions to national security challenges

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$23,000

RED RAIDER STARTUP WEEKEND

3-day sprint: ideation, team building, customer validation, pitching.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$2,000

iLAUNCH COMPETITION

Shark-Tank style pitch battle focused on product-market fit.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$11,500

FACULTY C-STARTUP

Faculty grants building commercialization across campus.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$20,000

COMMERCIALIZATION

WHERE IDEAS ARE TESTED, VALIDATED, AND REFINED.

PROTOTYPE FUND

Fuel for prototypes and validation testing.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$95,000

JUMPSTART MICROGRANTS

Seed micro-funding for early-stage undergraduate innovators.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$15,500

NSF I-CORPS

Program dedicated to helping innovators through customer discovery to validate real market needs.



ACCELERATION

WHERE VALIDATED IDEAS GAIN GRAVITY AND MOVE TO MARKET.

TEXAS TECH ACCELERATOR

One-year, milestone-driven program providing expert mentors, \$40K in seed funding, and training to build a high-impact venture.

AWARDED ANNUALLY: \$480,000

ONE HEALTH INCUBATOR

Dedicated space to support health- and biotech-focused startups to incubate their ventures within the Hub's broader ecosystem.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

WHERE ENTREPRENEURS BECOME A COMMUNITY.

HUB CAMP

Business-planning bootcamp offered twice a year.

LUNCH & LEARN

Monthly entrepreneurial power sessions by industry leaders fueling founders at every stage.

DISCOVERIES TO IMPACT

A campus-wide, month-long celebration of entrepreneurship, research and innovation hosted by the Hub and its partners.



OPERATION: PANTEX INNOVATION CHALLENGE

On October 16–17, the Texas Tech Innovation Hub and Pantex launched a high-impact partnership to turn academic talent into national security solutions. More than 40 students from engineering, business, computer science, and other disciplines answered the call—forming 8 teams to tackle real challenges posed by one of the most critical facilities in the country.

Pantex is the nation’s only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility and a cornerstone of the U.S. Nuclear Security Enterprise. Operated by Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC, the Pantex Plant ensures the safety, security, and reliability of the nation’s nuclear stockpile—work that demands constant innovation, precision engineering, and top-tier talent.

Day one began with a mission briefing and introduced students to nine national-security challenges before teams were formed, mentored, and sent into solution-mode. By Day two, all 8 teams were pitching bold ideas to a panel of Pantex leaders and Texas Tech leadership—demonstrating exactly what happens when academia and industry collide with purpose.

This partnership isn’t symbolic—it’s strategic. Texas Tech gains direct connection to real-world missions and cutting-edge problem sets. Pantex gains access to fresh thinking, research expertise, and the next generation of innovators. Together, we’re developing technologies, talent, and pathways that strengthen both our region and our nation.

The top teams earned cash prizes, an exclusive visit to the Pantex Plant, and advancement to the statewide Pantex Innovation Showdown.

Mission Status: Complete.
Next Launch Window: Fall 2026.

\$10K

CASH PRIZES
AWARDED TO
TEAMS



The road to the Pantex Innovation Showdown began in Lubbock, where Texas Tech students across engineering, business, computer science, chemistry, and creative media tackled challenges tied to one of the nation’s most vital security facilities. Working alongside Pantex leadership, 8 teams developed solutions spanning blast protection, lab automation, data analytics, and operational efficiency.

Three teams advanced to represent Texas Tech at the statewide Pantex Innovation Showdown against Texas A&M University–College Station.

In the days leading up to finals, the Innovation Hub ramped up support as teams met with Program Director Ryan Bain to refine presentations, incorporate mentor feedback, and produce custom pitch videos. Rehearsals stretched beyond the classroom—including early-morning practice on the bus to Amarillo before presenting at the Pantex Plant.

That preparation paid off.

At the Showdown, Texas Tech and A&M teams delivered industry-ready solutions to Pantex judges. Texas Tech brought home the top 2 prizes. Rank Shields earned first place and \$10,000 for its blast-protection concept, while IntelliAI claimed second place and \$5,000 for its lab optimization platform. A third team, Autochem Analytics, also competed with data-driven solutions for laboratory efficiency.

More than a competition, the Showdown became a proving ground—where academic training turned into mission-ready innovation.


MISSION PARAMETERS

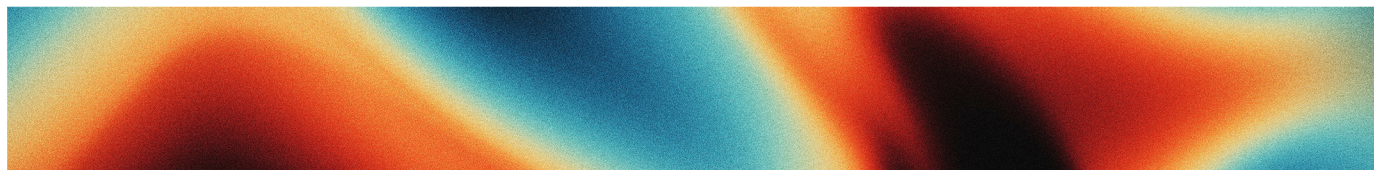
\$15K

CASH PRIZES
AWARDED TO
TEAMS



VS.





THE FINALISTS



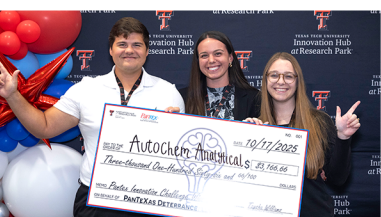
RANK SHIELDS

FIRST PLACE (\$10,000)



INTELLIAI

SECOND PLACE (\$5,000)



AUTOCHEM ANALYTICALS

RUNNER-UP

FACULTY AMBASSADORS

The Innovation Hub awarded the \$2,500 Faculty Commercialization Startup (C-Startup) Grant to five faculty members across the Texas Tech University System, equipping them to extend innovation and entrepreneurship deeper into the classroom and across campus.

This year's awardees joined a growing network of 50 Faculty Ambassadors serving as on-the-ground guides for commercialization at Texas Tech—helping students chart paths from discovery to application and from learning to launch. Beyond the classroom, students in Ambassador-led courses took part in the Innovation Hub's early-stage programs, gaining hands-on experience with idea development, validation, and entrepreneurial thinking. These opportunities allowed students to test their skills, explore new directions, and put innovation into motion.

2025 FACULTY AMBASSADORS



ANKRIT ANAND, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN RAWLS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

FACULTY C-STARTUP COURSE:
MARKETING RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Students mapped market demand and business strategy for emerging technologies through a semester-long, hands-on project.



DR. BALAJI RAO, RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

FACULTY C-STARTUP COURSE:
WATER SYSTEMS DESIGNS

Students applied business and engineering to design sustainable solutions for managing one of our most vital resources: water.



DR. BARBIE CHAMBERS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN THE COLLEGE OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

FACULTY C-STARTUP COURSE:
MEDIA ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Students built creative, technical, and analytical skills through a hands-on project developing and pitching a media-focused startup.



JEFF MUSTIN, CEO OF CAS LABORATORIES, LLC AND PROFESSOR IN THE HONORS COLLEGE

FACULTY C-STARTUP COURSE:
INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Students built an entrepreneurial mindset while developing ventures through idea generation, the Business Model Canvas, and MVP creation.



DR. MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN THE RAWLS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

FACULTY C-STARTUP COURSE:
DISCOVERING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students explored the mindset and methods of entrepreneurship by studying markets, customers, and opportunity creation.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Launched in Fall 2025, the Innovation Hub Student Ambassador Program expanded the Hub's mission directly into the heart of campus life. Four ambassadors were selected through a competitive application and interview process to serve as front-line advocates for innovation and entrepreneurship at Texas Tech University.

Student Ambassadors support programming and public relations efforts by helping promote the Innovation Hub's resources, programs, and events to students and the broader campus community. Through classroom visits, tabling, tours, event support, and outreach, Ambassadors ensure that innovators across Raiderland know where to go when they're ready to launch.



Designed as a year-long leadership experience, the program provides hands-on training in communication, event support, and community engagement. Ambassadors work alongside Innovation Hub staff to represent the Hub at major events such as Red Raider Startup, iLaunch, Legacy U, and Shark Tank Jr., while building valuable professional networks and real-world skills.

The program is open to enrolled Texas Tech University System students in Lubbock who are in good academic standing and have previously engaged with Innovation Hub programming. Ambassadors commit an average of 8–10 hours per month and receive a stipend for their service.

Together, this inaugural cohort brought innovation out of the building and into student spaces—creating visibility, momentum, and access for the next generation of founders.

2025 STUDENT AMBASSADORS

KAL SITLER, RAWLS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



Kal is a Finance major focused on supporting Hub programs and increasing student awareness of campus resources. He is active in Finance Association, SBLP, RBA, and serves as a Rawls Ambassador.

GRACE MEDINA, WHITACRE JR. COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



Grace is a Computer Science major and serves as a Learning Assistant and Supplemental Instruction Leader for engineering courses. She is also the Professional Chair for Alpha Omega Epsilon, leading career development initiatives and mentoring fellow students.

TONI AMARVI, HONORS COLLEGE



Toni is a Computer Science major in the Honors College with a strong interest in entrepreneurship. He co-leads a student startup and brings an energetic, team-driven approach to community and campus engagement.

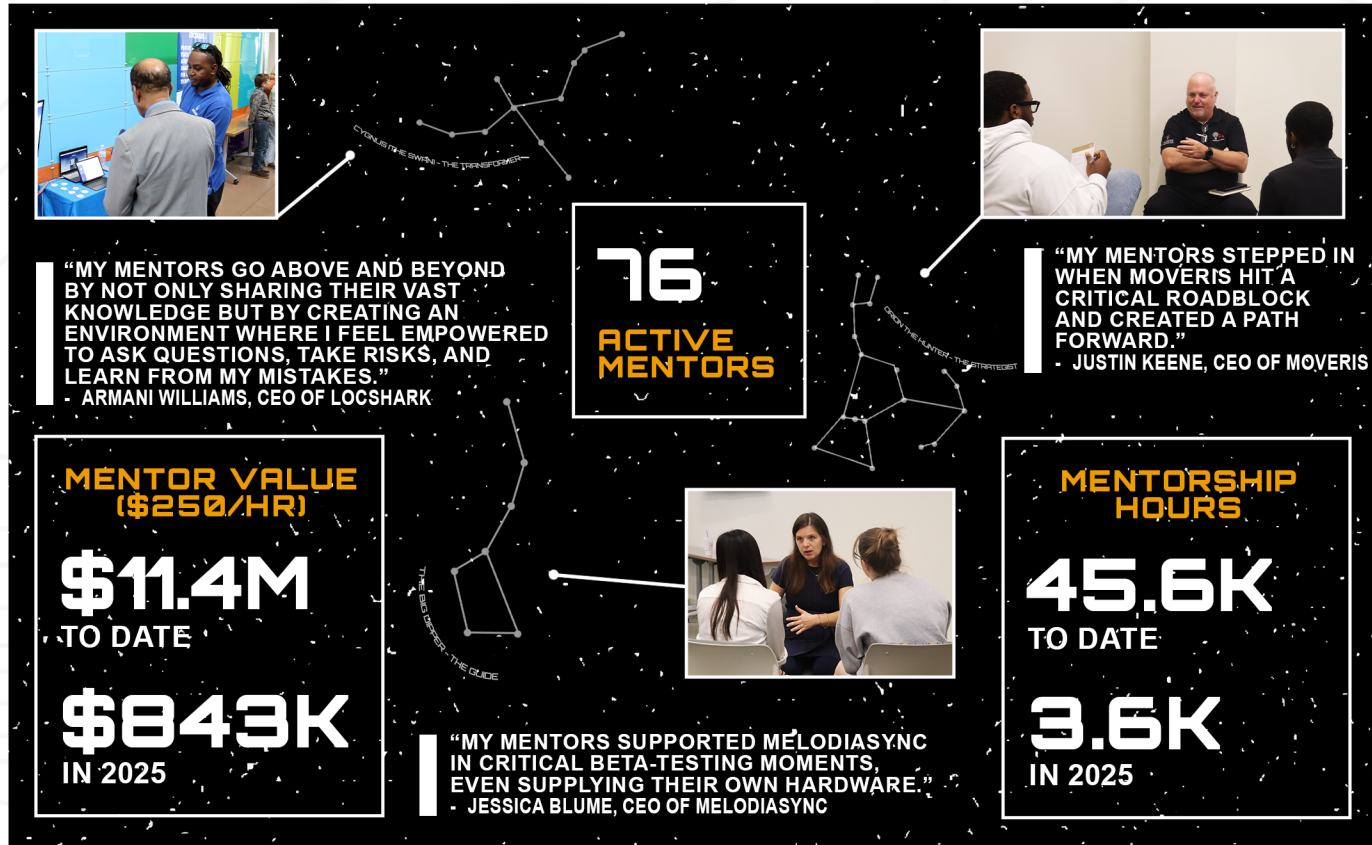
DAVID ESCOBAR, WHITACRE JR. COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



David is a Computer Science major passionate about building technology with real-world impact. He helps connect students with Innovation Hub resources and supports entrepreneurial opportunities across campus.

THE GUIDING STARS

The Innovate Texas Tech Mentor Program (ITTU) is Mission Control for our innovators, connecting startups with seasoned experts who guide their trajectory from concept to launch. Our mentors generously volunteer their time, allowing founders to access high-level expertise that would otherwise be extremely costly, helping them stay on course and accelerate toward successful commercialization.



This page recognizes both exceptional mentorship and lasting legacy—celebrating those who propelled innovation forward and those who continue to inspire beyond their time.

MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Gilbert Valdez was named Mentor of the Year for going above and beyond to guide Innovation Hub teams through one of the most complex stages of startup growth—FDA approval and regulatory compliance. A Texas Tech alumnus with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry, Gilbert brings a rare depth of expertise shaped by more than a decade as a credentialed FDA Field Inspector and sixteen years as an Environmental Specialist and Registered Sanitarian with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

With over 100 inspections of medical device manufacturers, Gilbert supported teams with hands-on guidance across regulatory strategy, quality systems, and compliance readiness. His mentorship helped founders navigate high-stakes decisions with clarity and confidence—turning regulatory challenges into launch-ready pathways.



IN MEMORIAM

Mark Murdock was a founding mentor of the Texas Tech Innovation Hub who shaped countless founders through his wisdom, honesty, and generosity. A retired attorney with decades of experience at IBM and Thompson & Knight, Mark devoted more than 20 years to mentoring entrepreneurs through organizations including NSF I-Corps, Blackstone LaunchPad, and programs across Texas.

At Texas Tech, he guided Accelerator teams from early ideas through launch and beyond, offering counsel grounded in experience and heart. A Texas Tech engineering graduate and University of Texas School of Law alumnus, Mark is remembered for the futures he helped build and the people he lifted along the way. He is survived by his wife, four children, and fourteen grandchildren.



ITTU MENTORS

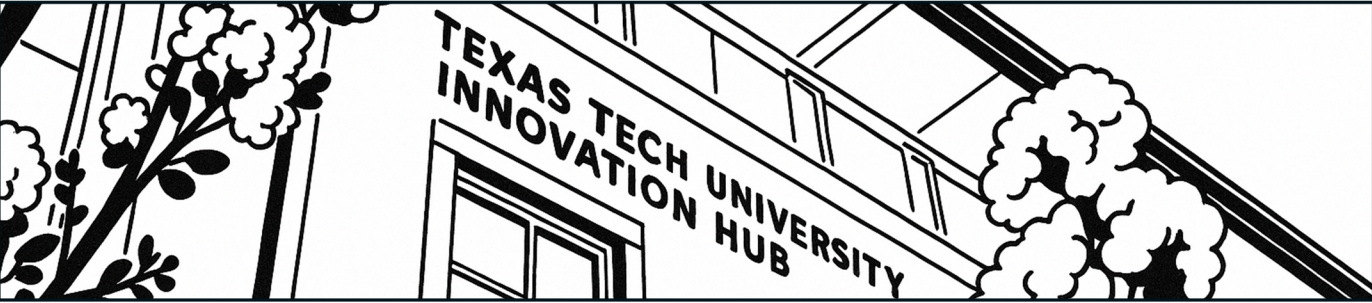
Jared Allen	Tim Dallas	Rachel Greene	Ray Laurent	Wayne Moore	Oleg Petrenko	Sandra Ryan	Cele Stone	Steve Warren
Igor Alvarado	Keith Davidson	Darrell Guthrie	James Livermore	Claudio Muller	Phil Philbin	Adib Shakib	Evan Stone	Mike White
Dan Baze	Doug Deaton	Kumar Hari Krishnan	Sarah Llamas	Chase Murphy	Anthony Presley	Carrie Shaver	Janak Sunuwar	Amy Wood
Nick Bergfeld	Rachel Deaton	Stephen High	Jonathan Looney	Mike Murphy	Courtney Queen	Tracy Shea	Arun Swaminathan	Jerry Zhang
Gipsy Bocanegra	Cody Dieterich	Steph Hoelscher	Charles Luck	Jeff Mustin	Matt Ramon	Sarah Simpson	Tami Swoboda	
Merritt Brockman	John Duffey	Josh Jowers	Robert Mamlok	Jay Nadkarni	Ryan Reber	Phil Sizer	Gerald Troutman	
Lloyd Caballero	Chuck Edwards	Jessica Kelly	Alejandra Marin	Mark Nair	Bennie Reed	John Smothers	Gilbert Valdez	
Monty Christian	Lekha Gopalakrishnan	Netaji Khot	Greg Mason	Atul Parvatiyar	Nicole Rojas	Kevin Soules	Bill Vandergriff	
Ron Cocquyt	Daniel Green	Todd Knowlton	Glenda Mathis	Marcus Pauda	Mike Ryan	Jennifer Souter	Kim Walker	



FROM LAB TO LAUNCH

The I-Corps program, funded by the National Science Foundation, is a national initiative that helps researchers turn scientific and engineering discoveries into real-world impact. It equips scientists, engineers, and students with the skills to assess commercial potential by identifying customers, validating market needs, and developing sustainable business models around their technology.

The Texas Tech Innovation Hub is the regional launchpad for this process. We support regional I-Corps cohorts throughout the year, delivering a structured, immersive curriculum that combines customer discovery training, mentorship, and real-world validation. Through these programs we guide teams through customer interviews, value proposition development, and market testing - helping them move from lab bench to launch readiness.



NUMBER OF REGIONAL
TEAMS TRAINED

32

IN 2025

264

TO DATE

MONEY AWARDED
TO NATIONAL TEAMS

\$50K

IN 2025

\$2.85M

TO DATE



MISSION DEBRIEF: TEXAS TECH JOINS I-CORPS WEST HUB

In 2025, the Texas Tech Innovation Hub became an official partner in the National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps Hub: West Region, strengthening the university's role as a launch point for research commercialization and deep-tech entrepreneurship. Supported by a \$225,000 award from the NSF I-Corps West Hub, this partnership expands Texas Tech's ability to equip research teams with the tools, training, and mentorship needed to move innovations from the lab into the marketplace.

The I-Corps West Hub is led by the University of Southern California, UCLA, and the University of Colorado Boulder, and brings together a consortium of top research institutions across the western United States. Texas Tech joins an elite group of partners—including Caltech, Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, University of New Mexico, University of Utah, and UC campuses in Riverside and Santa Barbara—working collectively to accelerate technology commercialization and strengthen regional innovation ecosystems.

Through this partnership, the Innovation Hub now hosts the NSF I-Corps Regional Program twice each year, serving as a pathway for Texas Tech research teams to develop entrepreneurial skillsets and validate their technologies through structured, real-world customer discovery. Participants receive expert coaching, mentorship, and training to test assumptions, identify product-market fit, and explore commercial pathways for their work. Teams demonstrating strong traction are then positioned to compete at the national level, where they may earn up to \$50,000 in NSF funding to continue refining and validating their innovations.

Beyond funding, the I-Corps partnership represents a long-term investment in building a culture of innovation at Texas Tech. It connects faculty, students, and researchers with a national network of mentors, investors, and entrepreneurial resources—strengthening collaboration, expanding opportunity, and cultivating the next generation of founders, scientists, and technology leaders.

With the Innovation Hub at the helm of this regional effort, Texas Tech is advancing its mission to turn discovery into impact—ensuring that groundbreaking ideas developed in West Texas are equipped to thrive on a national and global stage.



OUR WEST HUB PARTNERS



RISING STARS

Mission Update: A new cohort of founders is entering active development. Their ventures span health, sustainability, data systems, and human-centered design—each contributing to the future we are building together.

K9 FINDS



→ SNIFFING OUT INNOVATION

K9 Finds is transforming detection dog training with an olfactometer-based system that boosts precision and performance in real-world environments. Originating from research in the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, the team won the 2024 iLaunch Competition's \$10,000 grand prize and entered the year-long Accelerator Program to bring their solution to market.

- K9 WORKING UNITS
- AG & ANIMAL SCIENCE
- SCENT DETECTION TRAINING

STRIKE GUARD



→ PROTECTING THE PLATE

Strike Guard, founded by Texas Tech student and longtime umpire Christopher Tobin, is developing a protective forearm guard designed to reduce injury and improve confidence behind the plate. After refining his concept through the Hub's I-Corps workshop and earning funding through multiple pitch competitions, Tobin continues advancing the product through prototyping and mentorship at the Innovation Hub.

- SPORTS TECH
- HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN
- SAFETY GEAR

PILLMED PRO



→ MEDICATION MADE SIMPLER

PillMed is developing an intuitive automated pill dispenser that helps patients manage medications accurately and consistently, reducing confusion, missed doses, and preventable hospital visits. Founded by medical student Pranathi Bingi, a recipient of the Gary R. Peterson Future Texas Business Legend Award, the venture is focused on improving patient safety and independence.

- PATIENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS
- HEALTH TECH
- MEDICAL DEVICE

CHECK-UP SPORTS



→ THE BUSINESS OF BASKETBALL

Check-Up Sports is a new gig-economy app created by brothers Arie and Armani Williams, giving basketball players and court owners one place to manage events, handle payments, and connect through social features. By turning pickup games into opportunity, the platform empowers communities to play, organize, and earn—all in one app.

- SPORTS TECH
- GIG ECONOMY
- ATHLETE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MISSION : ACCELERATOR 08

The Texas Tech Accelerator propels startups from idea to launch through a 12-month program offering up to \$40,000 in seed funding, expert mentorship, and hands-on workshops. Teams receive training in fundraising, go-to-market strategy, and scaling while gaining access to a powerful network of industry leaders. Cohort 8 (2024–2025) spans a diverse range of industries from health tech and diagnostics to consumer goods, data analytics, and digital platforms.



AIKO Healthcare Solutions develops AI-driven hospital length-of-stay prediction tools to support clinical decision-making.



BarnBook is a mobile record-keeping platform that helps stock show families streamline animal management, improve accuracy, and focus more on raising successful livestock.



Cardio Intelligent Systems provides clinicians with accurate post-transplant skin cancer risk assessments, supporting earlier interventions and improving long-term patient outcomes.



ElevatED Data provides school districts with a streamlined platform to manage and analyze Teacher Incentive Allotment data, supporting informed decisions and increased designations for educators.



Moveris provides real-time, frictionless human-signal verification technology that helps businesses detect fraud, verify authentic human presence, and secure digital interactions by measuring psycho-physiological responses that AI can't fake.



MTDS Solutions expands access to healthcare by offering automated, easy-to-use diagnostic kiosks that streamline testing and reduce barriers to care.



NeoPurpose Therapeutics accelerates cancer drug development by offering tumor-on-a-chip platforms that enhance screening precision, reduce costs, and improve clinical relevance.



RARE Lighting Systems delivers integrated UVGI lighting solutions that disinfect air in music venues, enhancing safety without compromising visual ambience.



LocShark provides patented security tracking cases equipped with user-controlled electronic locks and real-time GPS/GSM/Wi-Fi tracking through mobile and web platforms.



Medical Information Simulations (MIS) develops interactive training simulators for Laboratory Information Systems to improve student preparedness and support workforce readiness in clinical pathology environments.



MelodiaSync combines real-time brainwave monitoring with evidence-based binaural sound therapy to improve sleep and enhance relaxation.




MobilityZ Health is a digital health platform that enables remote screening, monitoring, and support for musculoskeletal injuries, improving workflow efficiency, reducing clinician burnout, and enhancing patient outcomes.



SoulDeo Naturals is a luxury personal care brand offering clean, naturally scented deodorants, shower sprays, and dry shampoos made with plant-based ingredients for effective freshness without compromise.

ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE



MICHAEL RYAN, PH.D.

Entrepreneur and leadership expert with 25+ years of industry experience in logistics and technology. Founder of multiple ventures and former consultant to Fortune 500 companies, including AT&T, Lucent, and IBM.



FROM LAUNCH TO TODAY

Graduation from the Innovation Hub's programs is not an ending—it's a new chapter. Even after teams complete the Accelerator or late-stage programs, they remain an active part of the Hub community through mentorship, events, partnerships, and continued collaboration. Alumni founders return to share insight, hire students, and support new ventures—creating a cycle where success fuels opportunity. At the Innovation Hub, once you launch, you're always part of the mission.



TEXAS EARTH

OVERVIEW

Led by founder Sarah Burnett, Texas Earth, Inc. is putting science to work in the soil. In 2025, the team partnered with Agrellus through the Agrellus Innovation Grant to field-test Bio Nectar Dry, a microbial soil amendment designed to improve crop performance and long-term land health. Through real-world farm trials, Texas Earth is validating how beneficial microbes can drive sustainable impact at scale. Today, the company is helping reshape agriculture—one field at a time.

FLIGHT DATA

COHORT : 06

LAUNCH SITE : LUBBOCK, TX

MISSION : FARMING THE FUTURE

ORBIT : AGTECH INNOVATION



TOWN (PREVIOUSLY BLUEVERSE)

OVERVIEW

As juniors at Texas Tech, Alec Hernandez, Mason Still, Taylor Brewster, and Drew Pickens entered the Accelerator Program with an early idea called BlueVerse. The team transformed their concept into a working platform for small businesses to connect with their customers. They officially launched the BlueVerse app, caught investor interest, and expanded into other college towns after graduation. Today, the company lives on as Town—a platform that helps local businesses promote, connect, and grow within their communities.

FLIGHT DATA

COHORT : 06

LAUNCH SITE : LUBBOCK, TX

MISSION : POWER LOCAL BUSINESSES

ORBIT : SMALL BUSINESS TECH



VALKYRIE UAS SOLUTIONS

OVERVIEW

Valkyrie UAS Solutions is pioneering Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations to build a national framework for safe, scalable drone deployment. The team is developing infrastructure and policy-aligned flight corridors designed to expand rural healthcare access, enable telehealth delivery, and improve operations in hard-to-reach communities.

FLIGHT DATA

COHORT : 07

LAUNCH SITE : LUBBOCK, TX

MISSION : EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE THROUGH DRONE OPS

ORBIT : AVIATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNITY-POWERED INITIATIVES

Innovation thrives through connection. The Texas Tech Innovation Hub partners with colleges, alumni networks, and regional institutions to expand access to entrepreneurship, amplify research, and power progress across West Texas and beyond.

RED RAIDER STARTUP COLLABS.



→ INNOVATION WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

In 2025, the Innovation Hub hosted two Red Raider Startup Weekends, welcoming 280+ participants across 24 interdisciplinary teams. Through intentional partnerships with the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources and the College of Visual & Performing Arts, the program expanded entrepreneurship into agriculture and the arts—proving innovation in West Texas thrives across all disciplines.

SHARK TANK JR. & LEGACY U



→ BUILDING INNOVATORS EARLY

In partnership with STEM CORE, the Innovation Hub hosted Shark Tank Jr., a five-day camp engaging 45 students in grades 4–9 in entrepreneurship and problem-solving. Extending innovation across generations, the Hub also partnered with the Texas Tech Alumni Association’s Legacy U program to host the “What’s Your BIG Idea?” course—introducing Legacy families and grandparents to entrepreneurship and sparking creativity beyond the classroom.

COSTA RICA INNOVATION WORKSHOP



→ INNOVATION WITHOUT BORDERS

In July, the Innovation Hub returned to Costa Rica to lead a four-day Innovation Workshop for faculty and leaders at the National University of Costa Rica (UNA). Through hands-on training in commercialization, customer discovery, and business modeling, the program equipped 20 faculty members with tools to turn research into real-world impact—expanding Texas Tech’s global mission and strengthening international collaboration.

AMARILLO INNOVATION CHALLENGE



→ INNOVATION GOES REGIONAL

In February, the Innovation Hub partnered with Amarillo College and the Pantex Plant to host the Amarillo Innovation Challenge, where 60 students tackled 10 national security challenges. Through hands-on coaching and team-based problem-solving, the program strengthened regional collaboration and expanded the innovation pipeline across West Texas.

DISCOVERIES TO IMPACT MONTH

In April, Texas Tech transformed campus into an innovation engine during Discoveries to Impact (DTI) Month 2025, a four-week showcase of research, creativity, entrepreneurship, and community engagement. With more than 2,500 attendees and \$362,000 awarded to students, scholars, and entrepreneurs, DTI expanded opportunity across disciplines—connecting discovery to action and ideas to impact.

From undergraduate research to venture creation, from classrooms to communities, DTI Month demonstrated Texas Tech's commitment to building pathways that move knowledge beyond the campus and into the world.

IMPACT DASHBOARD

\$362K

AWARDED
THROUGHOUT
THE MONTH

\$2.5K

ATTENDEES
THROUGHOUT
THE MONTH



COMMERCIALIZATION POSTER COMP.

New in 2025, the Commercialization Poster Competition challenged students to rethink their research as startup-ready ideas. In partnership with TrUE, LEDA, and the Innovation Hub, ten finalists pitched how discovery could become impact, with five teams awarded \$1,000, Innovation Hub memberships, and eligibility for JumpStart Microgrants.



BLAKE BUCHANAN, KEYNOTE

More than 350 attendees gathered for Startup Week's keynote with Texas Tech alumnus Blake Buchanan, Founder and CEO of Bahama Buck's. He shared his journey from a single snow cone stand to a national brand—highlighting how innovation, persistence, and risk-taking turn ideas into opportunity.

TrUE
TEXAS TECH

CISER
TEXAS TECH

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT
TEXAS TECH

LIFE SCIENCES

The Innovation Hub is helping position Texas Tech as a rising force in life sciences, digital health, and biomedical innovation. Through partnerships, national incubators, and global accelerators, the Hub supports founders working at the intersection of healthcare, technology, and entrepreneurship—ensuring research and discovery move beyond the lab and into the lives of people who need solutions most.

LIFE SCIENCES INITIATIVES



→ ONE HEALTH INCUBATOR

The One Health Incubator, led by the Innovation Hub in partnership with TTUHSC Research, Innovation, & Commercialization (RICE), supports ventures addressing health across humans, animals, and the environment. This initiative reflects Texas Tech's commitment to interconnected solutions in wellness, biotechnology, and sustainability—bridging medicine, veterinary science, and environmental research into real-world applications.

→ INNOSPHERE VENTURES LIFE SCIENCES INCUBATOR

Four Innovation Hub startups—MobilityZ Health, 3 CulinaryMed Docs, New American Fabric, and Nami Diagnostics—were selected for the Innosphere Ventures Regional Life Sciences Incubator, a competitive, NSF-funded, multi-state program accelerating healthcare ventures. The nine-month experience provides mentorship, scientific networks, and investor access to move ideas toward market.



→ ECOSYSTEM IMPACT

Texas Tech's life sciences startups are gaining national attention—advancing through competitive programs and industry stages across the country. Companies like MobilityZ Health and Ardiyon Bio are engaging in elite accelerator pathways and healthcare innovation networks, strengthening their technologies while expanding their professional reach. As these teams build partnerships, attract funding, and validate products beyond West Texas, they bring credibility, connections, and capital back to Lubbock—fueling job creation, investment, and long-term economic growth in the region.

CONFERENCES & FIELD WORK

The Texas Tech Innovation Hub team continues to share, learn, and lead beyond campus by participating in national and statewide conferences focused on entrepreneurship, incubation, and innovation. These events allow the team to bring best practices back to West Texas while amplifying Texas Tech's role in shaping the future of startup support.



AUTM WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING

OVERVIEW
Managing Director Taysha Williams represented Texas Tech at the AUTM Western Region Meeting in Phoenix, joining national leaders to discuss how collaboration accelerates commercialization. She highlighted Texas Tech's model for aligning venture development and licensing teams, shared the University's Commercialization Roadmap, and emphasized how cross-campus partnerships expand access to programs like NSF I-Corps and move research more quickly to market.

MISSION SUMMARY
LOCATION : PHOENIX, AZ FOCUS : COMMERCIALIZATION THROUGH COLLABORATION



TUNIE

OVERVIEW
Dallas became a center of collaboration this July as Texas Tech's Innovation Hub led the 2025 TUNIE Conference in partnership with SMU Cox, bringing together 55 leaders from 24 universities across Texas. As Executive Director, Taysha Williams shaped two days of programming focused on scaling entrepreneurship centers, inclusive innovation, and community partnership, alongside a keynote from MapQuest founder Chris Hevily. The conference reinforced Texas Tech's role as a statewide leader in innovation and sparked new partnerships across the Texas ecosystem.

MISSION SUMMARY
LOCATION : DALLAS, TX FOCUS : STRENGTHENING TEXAS ENTREPRENEUR ECOSYSTEMS



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INNOVATION ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW
Assistant Director of PR Kathryn Dankesreiter presented on storytelling as a growth tool for Entrepreneur Support Organizations alongside Annika Horn at the InBIA Annual Conference. The session focused on building clear, cohesive, and cost-effective marketing strategies—sparking outreach from universities and leading to follow-up workshops with the Texas Tech Accelerator and Rawls Marketplace founders.

MISSION SUMMARY
LOCATION : PHILADELPHIA, PA FOCUS : STRATEGIC STORYTELLING FOR ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT ORGS.



WEST HUB REGIONAL PROGRAM

OVERVIEW
The Innovation Hub is represented at the national level through Taysha Williams, Lena Zappia, and Michael Ryan, who serve as instructors for the NSF I-Corps West Hub. As part of this elite training network, they guide research teams from across the region through customer discovery, market validation, and venture readiness—helping founders translate science into real-world solutions. Their involvement strengthens Texas Tech's role within the national I-Corps ecosystem and positions the Hub as a leader in research commercialization.

MISSION SUMMARY
LOCATION : REMOTE FOCUS : COMMERCIALIZATION TRAINING



GCEC CONFERENCE

OVERVIEW
Managing Director Taysha Williams presented at the GCEC Conference alongside Matthew Smilor on the creation and longevity of the Texas University Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (TUNIE). The session highlighted how the network was built, the role GCEC played in its origin, and why TUNIE serves as a model for effective, statewide collaboration.

MISSION SUMMARY
LOCATION : CALGARY, CANADA FOCUS : BUILDING & SUSTAINING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION THROUGH TUNIE

CLUB FOR INNOVATION

THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION

Join the Club for Innovation and help power the next generation of founders at Texas Tech. As a member, you're not just writing a check—you're helping secure the future of the Texas Tech Accelerator and the startups it launches. Gifts to the Champion Innovation Endowment create a stable foundation of funding so that, year after year, Innovation Hub companies have consistent access to education, mentorship, and the resources they need to grow from idea to impact.

By investing in this endowment, you're fueling job creation, new technologies, and real economic growth in Lubbock and across West Texas. In return, members of the Club for Innovation become part of the Innovation Hub's inner circle: receiving special event invitations, opportunities to mentor and judge pitch competitions, and regular updates on the founders and breakthroughs their support makes possible.



FUEL WHAT'S NEXT

OUR GOAL
\$2M



MISSION STATUS :

ALL SYSTEMS GO - HELP US REACH OUR \$2 MILLION INNOVATION GOAL

FOUNDING MEMBERS



JIM MCCARLEY



HANK DORRIS



KEVIN HANDERHAN



MATT RAMON

LUBBOCK EDA

HUB CITY DASHBOARD

There is no better place to launch what's next than Lubbock. The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA) is the driving engine behind regional growth—attracting industry, strengthening existing businesses, and building the future economy of West Texas.

LEDA is also the primary fuel behind the Innovation Hub's mission. From early-stage programs that spark ideas to the year-long Accelerator that launches companies, LEDA supports Hub programming—ensuring founders have access to mentorship, education, and the resources needed to move from concept to company.

In partnership with Market Lubbock and Texas Tech University, LEDA helps transform innovation into opportunity—creating jobs, drawing investment, and positioning Lubbock as a destination for entrepreneurship. The Innovation Hub also extends special thanks to Carolyn Rowley and John Osborne, whose leadership and advocacy through LEDA have championed the Hub since the Hub's inception and helped build a launchpad for innovators across West Texas.



MARKET
LUBBOCK



LUBBOCK
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ALLIANCE

FINAL TRANSMISSION

This work would not be possible without the people and partners who believe in innovation and invest in its future. We extend our deepest thanks to the entire Texas Tech Innovation Hub team for the energy, creativity, and commitment that make this mission real each day.

We are grateful to the Office of Research & Innovation and especially Dr. Joseph Heppert for leadership that continues to elevate entrepreneurship and commercialization across the university, and to Dr. Werner Kuhr for his unwavering support of innovation, mentorship, and strategic growth throughout Texas Tech’s ecosystem.

We also recognize our innovation ecosystem partners in the Office of Research Commercialization (ORC) and the Institute for Small Business (ISB) for the expertise, collaboration, and momentum they bring to founders every day.

CHART THE COURSE

Innovation grows when it’s supported—intentionally and together. Whether through early-stage programming, Accelerator funding, global partnerships, or mentorship, the Innovation Hub is building pathways that turn ideas into companies and communities into ecosystems.

Join us in shaping what comes next. Support bold founders. Champion breakthrough research. Be part of the movement driving entrepreneurship forward across West Texas and beyond—through the Club for Innovation and the programs that power our mission every day.

The mission continues. The future is ours to build.

MISSION STATUS

STATUS : ACTIVE	NEXT PHASE : EXPANSION
SYSTEM : TEXAS TECH INNOVATION HUB	FOCUS : FOUNDERS & COMMUNITY
TRAJECTORY : GROWTH	



“Innovation ecosystems aren’t built overnight; they’re built through trust, investment, and a shared belief in what’s possible. We invite our community at Texas Tech to help us create an environment where ideas don’t stall in classrooms or labs, but move forward with purpose.”
- DR. WERNER KUHR
Associate Vice President of Innovation & Entrepreneurship,
Texas Tech University





**INNOVATION HUB
AT RESEARCH PARK**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation