

→ **DEVELOPING GAME-CHANGING
IDEAS OF THE FUTURE**



**BEYOND
THESE
TOWERS**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE

Our students and faculty have tremendous ideas and the drive to pursue them. WPI has reached a point where it must remove barriers to allow those ideas to expand and flourish. Supporting this university's innovation, entrepreneurship, and value creation initiatives is an investment in the people and ideas that are changing our world for the better.



We invite you to join us in advancing WPI's efforts in innovation, entrepreneurship, and value creation—enabling a culture that embraces, inspires, and promotes innovative thinking and action to create positive impact beyond our campus and beyond expectations.

Some of the most exciting catalysts for impactful change in the world are in nascent stages at WPI right now. Our innovation and entrepreneurship programs are aimed at supporting the great minds that are committed to pushing beyond accepted conventions and boundaries to develop those ideas into the game changers of the future.



WPI's approach to innovation, entrepreneurship, and value creation covers everything from idea to execution. Our distinctive hands-on, project-based curriculum and use of applied knowledge is embedded in innovation and entrepreneurship programs and initiatives across campus—from coursework to informal pitch practice sessions. Entrepreneurial thinking is not limited by disciplinary boundaries at WPI. Our students learn the value of an entrepreneurial mindset in all types of settings—from start-ups to well-established organizations—and our faculty learn the best ways to teach it, use it, and model it in their research and teaching.

Our emphasis on applied research means faculty and students engage in work that can translate into products, services, or other intellectual property. WPI also offers the Tech Advisors Network (TAN), a valuable resource of alumni, faculty, staff and friends who are experienced innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors.

Headquartered in the WPI Innovation Studio, innovation and entrepreneurship programs offer areas for students, faculty, alumni, and community and industry leaders to interact with, learn from each other, and network. Students may access WPI resources and expertise to determine an idea's viability, discover funding potential, enter competitions, and receive coaching, mentoring, and professional development for specialized skills like business communication, presentations, and pitching.

WPI is committed to educating graduates whose collaborative entrepreneurial mindset, multidisciplinary problem-solving skills, and creativity will have an impact on society, business, and the world.

Our goal is to create a culture that embraces, inspires, and promotes entrepreneurial thinking and action.

Innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives where your support will advance our efforts include:

THE INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER IN THE WPI INNOVATION STUDIO:

This is the creative and inspirational core for the vital programs, positions, activities, departments, and work that will extend and elevate the impact of WPI faculty, students, and alumni far beyond campus.

IWPI SERIES: Aimed at a range of programming around I&E, this funding will bring speakers to campus, provide faculty training, and encourage "goat tank" pitch competitions, hackathons, and other initiatives related to education, support, mentoring, skill-building, and opportunities to help students, faculty, and alumni take their ideas to impact. These funds will also support programming such as Ready to Go, iCorps, Frequent Flyer, and related activities.



90

Ventures supported by the Tech Advisors Network (2017)

4x

National average for research universities' invention disclosures and licenses (2017)

80+

Volunteer Advisors in the Tech Advisors Network

42

Students filed for patents (2018)

35

Companies formed/advised by the Tech Advisors Network (2017)

5

Students licensed patents (2018)

TINKER BOX FUNDING: This enables students and faculty to access the supplies, prototyping, and other resources they need to develop their initial ideas.

“EQP” (INCUBATOR INTERNSHIP): This will provide students the opportunities to pursue an alternative entrepreneurial project embedded in a start-up environment or testing an entrepreneurial concept in a real-world setting.

RUNWAY PROGRAM: These gap-year stipends will enable recent graduates to pursue their ideas and access workspace, legal services, and other resources to lessen the risk of early-stage enterprises and lower the barrier to start-ups.

TECH ADVISORS NETWORK: This funding will continue to support the activities of TAN members as mentors-in-residence and in engaging cohorts in the iWPI series or Ignite activities.

SUMMER EXCEL FUND: This will support an E-Term Innovation Bootcamp Program for teams of students who have near ready-to-launch ventures.

IGNITE WEEK: Held during academic breaks, funding for Ignite Week will support faculty from across disciplines, alumni experts, and industry specialists as program leaders to ignite the innovative mind. Students will gain an intensive understanding of value creation, goal setting, and more during this on-campus co-curricular experience.

WINTERSESSION SUPPORT FUNDS: This will support session topics such as High Performance Teams and Psychological Safety, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Design Thinking, Business Models & Strategies, How to Start a Business on a Shoestring Budget, Market Research, Fundamentals of Negotiation, Conflict Management Toolbox, Leadership When Your Life Depends On It, How to Create a Pitch, Strengths Bootcamp, and more.

GLOBAL EIR: In order to support economic development, entrepreneurship, and innovation in the region, WPI has been named a regional host for a Global Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program, beginning with a two-year pilot. Global EIRs will be supported on a rolling basis and be housed at the WPI Innovation Studio, with support from WPI's International House.

Now, more than ever, the world needs WPI's innovators, educators, makers, and doers—people with the knowhow and the tenacity to work across disciplinary, cultural, and geographic boundaries to take on the world's greatest and most consequential problems. Realizing the vision of a truly globally engaged university will take an unprecedented commitment from the greater WPI community.

Our drive to go beyond is fueled by the belief that what we have created and what we do at WPI can be of immense value to a world beset by challenges. We need champions to help us get there.

Be a champion. Join us on this expedition to tomorrow's university and a brighter world

Beyond These Towers.



WPI

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