AUTUMN 2021 - SPRING 2022

Keenan Center Impact Report

A destination for extraordinary entrepreneurs seeking to create a future beyond the ordinary.
The mission of the Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship is to grow and foster a culture of entrepreneurship for the Ohio State community through the creation and support of new ventures and the education and encouragement of their founders. The Keenan Center provides a campus-wide hub for collaboration and engagement with early stage capital, startup talent and robust programming resources to maximize opportunities for social and economic impact.
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Dear Founders, Supporters, Midwest Entrepreneurial Community and Buckeye Nation:

Fifteen years ago, my wife and I addressed what has become known as the Five Keenan Imperatives to create a vibrant entrepreneurial infrastructure at Ohio State. Over that time, most of the imperatives moved from infancy to the nascent stage of their development, while the fifth imperative remained a vision backed by a promise from The Ohio State University’s leadership team to make it a reality. Today, we are pleased to report that all five imperatives are firmly in place and continue to evolve in dynamic and transformative ways. The results are impressive.

Keenan Imperative #1: Support from The Top

President Kristina M. Johnson has advocated for the funding of Ohio State’s most important strategic initiatives, from her initial appointment as the president of Ohio State to her recent appointment to co-chair a new council to help the United States remain the “world’s leading startup nation” for the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE). Along with Dr. Grace Wang, executive vice president for research, innovation and knowledge, Dr. Johnson’s tenacity was instantly apparent and has helped facilitate the Keenan Center’s future new home on South High Street. Dr. Johnson and her leadership team continue to enthusiastically support the Keenan Center’s meaningful impact on our students, the Midwest region, and the Corridor of Collaboration stretching between Syracuse, New York (the home of the Keenan Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at LeMoyne College) and Columbus, Ohio.

Keenan Imperative #2: Collaboration Across the Entire Ohio State Community

The Keenan Center has established a unifying bridge between all of Ohio State’s diverse colleges and centers of excellence. We continue to see an increase in student engagement across campus, with increased interest from students studying the humanities, business, and engineering, as well as the natural, physical, and social sciences. Today, the center serves students from majors across Ohio State and alumni from across the world. It also serves as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship across the growing entrepreneurial landscape in central Ohio.
Keenan Imperative #3: The Right Team

It all began in January of 2020 when Cheryl Turnbull accepted the role as the first full-time senior director of the Keenan Center. Over the past few years, Cheryl has built a formidable team, intentionally adding individuals that create value to the center and who possess skills and knowledge complementary to her own.

They are:

- Cheryl Turnbull
  Senior Director
- Scott Griffin
  Director - Entrepreneurial Programs and Talent
- Caroline Crisafulli
  Director - Entrepreneurial Education
- Joe Chinnici
  Director – Venture Development
- Katherine Schulhaus
  Manager - Capital
- Lauryn Betterton
  Program Specialist
- Malin Bryson
  Data Specialist
- Ashley Lippincott
  Program Coordinator
- Katie Musson
  Administrative Specialist
- Corine St. Gelais
  Grants and Contracts Specialist

This team is truly a group of all-stars as any entrepreneur or aspiring entrepreneur can attest that has had the privilege to seek out their assistance.

Keenan Imperative #4: Support Derived from Central Ohio, Midwest Region and Ohio State Alumni Communities

Although support can be measured in a number of ways, nothing speaks louder than investment in the Keenan Center. In addition to our investment to date, many individuals have dedicated time and resources to make this center a reality. If not for their dedication and commitment to the entrepreneurial infrastructure at Ohio State, this initiative would not have happened. As the saying goes “it takes a village to raise a child.” Well, it takes a community to support an entrepreneur. At Ohio State, the Keenan Center provides that community.

Keenan Imperative #5: Dedicated Space on Campus

We look forward to your presence at the 2023 ribbon cutting ceremony.

You have no doubt noted that none of the Five Keenan Imperatives include programmatic results. Why? My wife and I knew that once the imperatives were actualized, the programmatic results would follow. We were right.

Finally, if you have ever received an email from me, you know that each signature is punctuated with my personal credo: “Blame no one. Expect nothing. Do something.” We hope that this impact report demonstrates that the people of the Keenan Center live by this mantra every day.

Onward with Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity,

Timothy P. Keenan, ’80
The Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship has had a tremendous year! Returning to campus and being able to meet in person again has reinvigorated our entrepreneurial community and inspired our efforts!

One of the most exciting new programs introduced this past year is the President’s Buckeye Accelerator. This accelerator, under the sponsorship of President Kristina M. Johnson, supports student founders prepare a startup for launch by combining entrepreneurship skill building, deep mentorship, community building and funding, with a structured process. This report will introduce you to the six student ventures that were selected for the year-long accelerator and awarded $50,000 to advance their startup concept.

I’m also thrilled to share with you previews of the new space for the Keenan Center (see page 8). Centrally located on campus, this space will provide a resource-filled gathering hub for students exploring entrepreneurship. We partnered with Ohio State professor Rebekah Metheny and her design students to make this a space that our entrepreneurs of the future will truly value.

The Keenan Center also continues to support our faculty and staff inventors. In 2021-2022, we awarded $1.99 million across 18 projects to advance the technology from the lab to the market. Our team supported the creation last year of 11 new Ohio State startup companies, bringing our total active startup portfolio to 95. One of these startups, Entrada Therapeutics, went public in October 2021 and trades on the NASDAQ under the symbol TRDA. Entrada is working to establish a new class of medicines with the potential to engage intracellular targets that have previously been considered inaccessible and undruggable and make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients.

Of course, we couldn’t do this without an amazing team here at the Keenan Center. Over the past year, we welcomed Scott Griffin, Lauryn Betterton and Ashley Lippincott in entrepreneurial programs and talent; Caroline Crisafulli in entrepreneurial education; Joe Chinnici in venture development; Malin Bryson in data support; and Katie Musson in administrative support. And, I want to be sure to recognize the continued outstanding efforts from Kate Schulhaus and Corine St. Gelais who lead our capital team.

Thank you, as well, to Tim and Kathleen Keenan. Their vision of an entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports personal dreams and economic development inspires our actions every day. I hope our actions inspire you as well!

With appreciation,

Cheryl Turnbull  
Senior Director,  
Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The faces, names and talent that make it happen.

Senior Director
Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship

Cheryl Turnbull

Senior Analyst
Entrepreneurial Programs and Talent

Lauren Betterton

Data Specialist

Malin Bryson

Director
Entrepreneurial Programs and Talent

Scott Griffin

Director
Entrepreneurial Education

Caroline Crisafulli

Director
Venture Development

Joe Chinnici

Manager
Capital

Kate Schulhaus

Grants and Contracts Specialist
Capital

Corine St. Gelaïs

Program Coordinator
Entrepreneurial Programs and Talent

Ashley Lippincott

Executive Assistant

Kate Musson

Director
Entrepreneurial Education

Lauren Betterton

Director
Entrepreneurial Programs and Talent

Ashley Lippincott

Manager
Capital

Katie Schulhaus

Director
Venture Development

Caroline Crisafulli

Grants and Contracts Specialist
Capital

Corine St. Gelaïs
Creating a space to foster Ohio State entrepreneurs of the future.

Rebekah Matheny, professor in the Department of Design at Ohio State, and a multi-disciplinary team of seven undergraduate research assistants, led a research project on co-designing the new physical Keenan Center space opening in early 2023. The project focused on Ohio State entrepreneurs and the President’s Buckeye Accelerator ventures. The research was conducted in three phases: student interviews, journey mapping and visioning workshop.

Four major insights from the project:

1. Embed flexibility through: furniture, individual controls, visual privacy, together yet alone spaces and access to food
2. Connect to nature (biophilia) through: natural light, patterns from nature, views of nature, natural materials, spaces of refuge and natural background sounds
3. Create collaboration through: shared workspace, shareable technology, acoustical privacy, unique interior space design and comfortable furniture
4. Designed visual interest and intuitive wayfinding through: natural finishes, colorful accents, unique patterns and stimulating environmental graphics
The Accelerator Awards program has been running since 2015 and is partially funded through the Technology Validation and Startup (TVSF) Fund Phase I grant from the Ohio Third Frontier. The goal of the Accelerator Awards is to validate and de-risk technologies with the intent to license them to Ohio-based startup companies that will bring the innovations to market.

During 2021-22, the Keenan Center announced eighteen projects selected for Accelerator Awards funding, receiving $1.99 million to advance the translation of technologies developed by Ohio State innovators from the university into the marketplace. In total, 58 applications were received from principal investigators affiliated with nine different colleges at Ohio State encompassing technologies across technology sectors, including life sciences, sensors, software, information technology, energy, advanced manufacturing and advanced materials.

The Keenan Center secured a $500,000 TVSF Phase 1 grant from the Ohio Third Frontier which, when combined with a matching amount from Ohio State, will provide a $1 million pool of funds to support Accelerator Award projects to be awarded in 2022-23.
### Capital

**Since Start of the Accelerator Awards in 2015.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>$6M</strong></th>
<th><strong>78</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Awarded to Ohio State Technologies</td>
<td>Technology Opportunities Funded (since 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>43</strong></th>
<th><strong>22</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Technologies Initiated Commercialization</td>
<td>Startups Created</td>
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<th><strong>$34.5M</strong></th>
<th><strong>12</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Follow-On Investments &amp; Capital Secured by Startups</td>
<td>TVSF Phase 2 Awards Received by Startups Totaling $1.65M</td>
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**Capital Accelerator Awards.**

Projects funded in 2021-2022

- **Mahmood Khan**
  - College of Medicine | Department of Emergency Medicine
  - Scalable Tissue Engineered Cardiac Patch to Remuscularize Failing Hearts

- **Raymond L. Benza**
  - College of Medicine | Department of Medicine
  - Development of a Biatral Catheter for a Cardiopulmonary Support System in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

- **Carlos Castro**
  - College of Engineering | Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
  - Rapid COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing using DNA Origami Nanostructures

- **Pelagia-Irene (Perena) Gouma**
  - College of Engineering | Department of Materials Science & Engineering
  - Desktop High-Throughput Electrospinning System

- **Daniel Jones**
  - College of Medicine | Department of Pathology
  - Rapid RNA Sequencing Assays for Integrated Disease Management: the SARS-COV-2 DXVX Prototype

- **Pelegia-Irene (Perena) Gouma**
  - College of Engineering | Department of Materials Science & Engineering
  - Desktop High-Throughput Electrospinning System

- **Zihai Li**
  - College of Medicine | Comprehensive Cancer Center
  - Anti-GARP Monoclonal Antibodies for Cancer Immunotherapy

- **Alan Luo**
  - College of Engineering | Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Department of Integrated Systems Engineering
  - Advanced Manufacturing of a Biodegradable Magnesium Alloy for Biomedical Devices

- **Lisa K. Militello**
  - College of Nursing | Martha S. Pitzer Center for Women, Children & Youth
  - College of Engineering | Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Sleep-well Baby Bedding

- **Asimina Kiourti**
  - College of Engineering | Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Desktop High-Throughput Electrospinning System

- **Robert J. Lee**
  - College of Pharmacy | Division of Pharmaceutics and Pharmacology
  - Albumin-SN-38 Conjugate (AlbuCure) for Cancer Therapy
BOYD PANTON
College of Engineering | Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Welding Engineering Program
Micro-impact Welding to Manufacture Lightweight and Energy Efficient Mechanical Actuators for Electric Land and Air Vehicles

JUDIT PUSKAS
College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences | Department of Food, Agricultural & Biological Engineering
“BUCKEYE” COVID Mask

DEHUA PEI
College of Arts and Sciences | Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Cell-Permeable Proteins for Sustainable Organic Agriculture

SHAURYA PRAKASH
College of Engineering | Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Printed Electroceutical Dressing (PED) for Infection Mitigation and Wound Healing

LUCIANO M. PREVEDELLO
College of Medicine | Laboratory for Augmented Intelligence in Imaging, Radiology Department
Automated Intracranial Metastasis Detection Algorithm

JONATHAN SONG
College of Engineering | Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Induced Electric Field (iEF) Therapy for Treatment of Metastatic Cancers

JEFFREY SKIDMORE
College of Medicine | Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Optimized Hearing for Cochlear Implant Patients

ALPER YILMAZ
College of Engineering | Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering
Wexner Medical Center | Department of Neurology
Machine Learning Tool Detection and Monitoring of Stroke

DEEPAK GULATI
College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences | Department of Food Science and Technology
Overcoming challenges to commercialization of a bio based, biodegradable rubbery bioplastic: A need for an industrially produced prototype

LUCIANO M. PREVEDELLO
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ALPER YILMAZ
College of Engineering | Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering
Wexner Medical Center | Department of Neurology
Machine Learning Tool Detection and Monitoring of Stroke

DEEPAK GULATI
College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences | Department of Food Science and Technology
Overcoming challenges to commercialization of a bio based, biodegradable rubbery bioplastic: A need for an industrially produced prototype
Technology Showcase.
The Spring 2022 Technology Showcase featured technologies that received funding from the Accelerator Awards.

Presentations

Luciano Prevedello: Automated Intracranial Metastasis Detection Algorithm

Scott Schricker: Development of Non-Foaming High Strength, Single Component Methacrylate Adhesive

Ted Allen: Data-Driven Inspection, Alerts, Maintenance, Observable Network Decision

Carlos Castro: Rapid COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing using DNA Origami Nanostructures

Ray Benza: The development of a biaarial catheter for a cardiopulmonary support system in pulmonary arterial hypertension

CAPITAL
 Mario Alvarez; David Dean; Ryan Hooper; Ciro Rodriguez; Grissel Trujillo: Chaotic Lamina
 Emile Daoud; John Hummel: VenoSure
 Carmen DiGiovine: SitSmart
 Zhiwei Hu: CAR-T_NK v TNBC
 Asimina Kiourti and Lisa Militello: Sleep Well Baby Bedding
 Sanjay Krishna: LITE Detector
 J. Allen McElroy, Tanya Nocera, Nadi Graham, and Bryan Stewart: HDO Health
 Michael Tweedle: Cell Penetrating Peptides
 Kai Zhao: Nasal Aid
Technology and Validation Start Up Fund Phase 2.

The goal of the Ohio Third Frontier Technology Validation and Start-up Fund (TVSF) is to create greater economic growth in Ohio based on start-up companies that commercialize technologies developed by Ohio institutions of higher education and other Ohio not-for-profit research institutions.

The Ohio Third Frontier announced TVSF Phase 2 funding for ten Ohio State startups in 2021-22 totaling $1.25M to:

- Collaborative Concepts
- Dasi Simulations
- DNA Nanobots
- HDO Health
- HuMed Life Sciences
- Myoptech
- Neural Ear
- PointPro
- Screen to Action
- VisGate
Our amazing venture adventure.

Ohio State researchers disclose over 300 new inventions each year across a spectrum of sectors and applications. Startups offer a compelling, flexible path to advance innovations toward commercial adoption and success.

Venture Development offers a mix of university resources and diverse funding access to assist teams with licensed Ohio State technologies as they explore and develop potential commercialization strategies, test market and business-model assumptions, recruit university and non-university talent and secure early-stage funding.
Ohio State startups.

The Keenan team is dedicated to creating startup companies by matching Ohio State innovations with experienced entrepreneurs and a full continuum of funding.
VENTURE DEVELOPMENT

Cumulative private investment in Ohio State startups.

$1.005B

Total at end FY 2022

TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT ($) BY SOURCE

- Venture Capital
- Corporate / Other
- Federal Grants
- Angels

FUNDING BY YEAR

FISCAL YEAR

- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022

FUNDING AMOUNT

- $0M
- $1M
- $6M
- $8M
- $14M
- $36M
- $56M
- $63M
- $125M
- $135M
- $379M
- $91M
Venture Development

Startup Business Leader Networking.

The Keenan Center hosts Ohio State startup leaders’ semi-annual dinners. The twice-a-year event provides an opportunity for leaders across the startup portfolios to network, celebrate successes, and learn from fellow entrepreneurs.

In fall 2021, the event featured keynote speaker, Rachel Friedman, CEO of TENFOLD and TENSPEACE.

Friedman shared her entrepreneurial journey that began in 2014, when she started TENFOLD. Award-winning TENFOLD, which has been entirely self-funded, helps clients such as ESPN, NBCUniversal, Big Lots, and Huntington National Bank, among others, align their business strategy and culture with workplace design, and also works with clients on succession planning.

In 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, Friedman launched TENSPEACE to tell a client’s story by creating public, interactive experiences for online brands. Every eight weeks, the space transforms to feature a different online-based brand. This one-time portal gives visitors the chance to touch, feel, and discover the hottest rising brands through carefully curated design, immersive technology and real-life connection. TENSPEACE is located in the Short North Arts District in Columbus and is open to the public.
Startup and Venture Capital Summit.

The Keenan Center presented five life sciences portfolio companies during the annual Fall Startup and Venture Capital Summit in fall 2021. The virtual program featured brief presentations given by each startup CEO.

Tom Magliery of Cogen Bioscience, Inc. - Developing a tumor-antigen-directed platform of products for cancer-specific imaging and detection.

Joe Skraba of Entvantage DX - Commercializing a proprietary collection device and bacterial assay kit as a rapid, in-office diagnostic test for differentiating viral from bacterial sinusitis.

Dan Wenger of Otologic Technologies - Developing an artificial intelligence (AI)-clinical decision support system to assist in diagnosing ear diseases.

Izabela Gierach and David Wood of Protein Capture Science - Commercializing a unique self-cleaving tag method that provides all the power and flexibility of tag-based methods for basic R&D, but can also be used for full-scale manufacturing of tagless therapeutic proteins.

Gordon Bethwaite of Vitranu - Developing a Tunable Extended Release Capsule (TERCTM) for biologic pharmaceuticals delivered via intravitreal injection.
Executive in Residence.

It’s who you know. And it’s what you know.

What is an Executive in Residence (EIR)? At the Keenan Center, EIRs advise student entrepreneurs. The role is designed to pair accomplished executive leaders with Ohio State-affiliated student startups to establish ongoing mentoring relationships. EIRs work with students to commercialize new business and entrepreneurial ventures while helping them acquire the skills and abilities required to succeed in the startup ecosystem. The Keenan Center has three EIRs – Tess Mateo, Warner Moore and Greg Pugh.

I was quickly impressed by the caliber of student founders and program participants upon meeting the team and participating companies. Many of the student founders have a stronger foundation than other concept stage companies I’ve worked with, who are often founded by experienced professionals. Everyone working in the President’s Buckeye Accelerator is passionate about helping develop the next generation of entrepreneurs, and it’s an honor to be in the company of such giants.

Warner Moore
Help develop advanced and varied skill sets in entrepreneurs through insight from more experienced professionals

Surround ventures with teams of 2-3 mentors with expertise in a variety of subject areas

Provide ventures with regular, formal mentoring sessions and occasional ad hoc advice

Help the venture identify the 2-3 most important milestones to accomplish over next 30 days

Facilitate connection and community with Ohio State’s entrepreneurial ecosystem

Buckeye Venture Mentor Service.

Ventures and mentors have established a community energized by the possibility of Ohio State innovation and committed to growing the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Buckeye Venture Mentor Service (BVMS) is a program that can extend the continuum of Keenan Center support to ventures and jumpstart their path to success. BVMS is evolving to meet the needs of entrepreneurs by recruiting exceptional mentors with diverse ideas, perspectives, and backgrounds.

“Startups are never 100% pragmatic endeavors - no matter the idea you’re building, there will be problems that seem unsolvable, risks that seem irrational, and dreams that seem unreachable. Helm’s mentors have given exceptionally helpful business advice, but more than that, they’ve offered the encouragement to take leaps, break through barriers and endure.”

Kai McKinney
Founder of Helm, a BVMS venture

14 ventures lead by faculty, students, licensees and alumni

23 mentors from central Ohio
Keenan Center Internships.

Interns today. CEOs tomorrow.

Student internships at the Keenan Center are designed to be a meaningful, practical and collaborative partnership with programming staff to facilitate a full spectrum of resources and education for Ohio State-affiliated entrepreneurs. Interns get hands-on experience in the entrepreneurial ecosystem while exploring their own career opportunities. These individuals participate in all areas of Keenan Center programming, from building showcase events and creating brand awareness to shaping the day-to-day operations of the programming team.

Keenan Center interns gain experience by:

• Assisting with event coordination for Keenan Center programs, including but not limited to Best of Student Startups (BOSS), President’s Buckeye Accelerator, Buckeye Venture Mentor Service and Entrepreneurship and Innovation Scholars
• Identifying opportunities for the Keenan Center to collaborate with academic college initiatives and goals
• Maintaining program records, researching information, gathering related data and producing reports or summaries
• Executing marketing tactics and brand building while participating in the development of the Keenan Center brand strategy
Wheeler and Wolstein Internships.

The Thomas Wheeler graduate internship program and the Bert and Iris Wolstein undergraduate internship program each provide funding for student internships with startup companies and small businesses.

The program matches students with organizations offering a project-based internship during summer term (May-August).

Matched students receive a $7,000 scholarship to cover a living stipend during summer term. There is no financial cost to participating startup organizations.
SHANG-YU KO
Major: Computer Science and Engineering
Startup placement: DaTAnchor
Thomas Wheeler Intern

NIKOLAS MORALES
Major: Finance
Startup placement: MedComplianceIQ
Bert and Iris Wolstein Intern

PHAT NGUYEN
Major: MBA
Startup placement: 3Bar Biologics
Thomas Wheeler Intern

JORDAN RIFE
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Startup placement: IR Medtek
Thomas Wheeler Intern

AVIJIT KUMAR
Major: Computer and Information Science
Startup placement: Bingo
Bert and Iris Wolstein Intern

SALMA TIBA
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Startup placement: Protein Capture Science
Thomas Wheeler Intern

TOMMY TAUER
Major: Electrical and Computer Engineering
Startup placement: ResCon Technologies
Bert and Iris Wolstein Intern

OLIVIA VICK
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Startup placement: HDO Health
Thomas Wheeler Intern
REACH is a year-round resource and network designed to encourage women across the University to amplify the impact of their research by exploring technology transfer, commercialization and entrepreneurship. Our programs are designed for faculty, research staff, graduate students and postdocs.

REACH consists of a series of seminars and workshops; informal and formal networking opportunities; and individual mentoring.

The interactive workshops provide a broad overview of entrepreneurship in 4 quarterly themes:

- Visioning Impact from Research
- Learning the Landscape
- Building a Team
- Understanding the Funding Continuum

The REACH network connects researchers and innovators to resources, collaborators, peers, mentors and funding sources.

**PROGRAMS**

**REACH for Commercialization™**

**NETWORK BY THE NUMBERS**

127 participants since 2010
Participants from 12 colleges across 39 departments
10 Ohio State startups associated with REACH participants
Translating scientific discoveries to equitable positive societal impact requires broadening participation of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and entrepreneurial pursuits. SEED seeks to broaden participation in STEM and entrepreneurship by establishing a sustainable training program that teams students from underrepresented groups with faculty from underrepresented groups, enabling students to gain research and technology development skills and engage with relatable, relevant role models.

SEED is an integrated research and entrepreneurial training program, combining a summer research intensive internship with concurrent entrepreneurial skills training followed by experiential entrepreneurial learning opportunities throughout the academic year.

The program is a collaborative effort between the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the College of Engineering, and the REACH for Commercialization program. In 2021 the program was piloted and expanded participation in 2022.
Opportunity Accelerator.

The Keenan Center received a $50,000 prize from the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAFC) hosted through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The competition awarded accelerators and incubators who proposed targeted assistance to Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)/Research and Development (R&D) entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups, including women, people of color, and rural and veteran entrepreneurs. The GAFC prize winners support a broad range of industries including clean energy, supply chain resilience and infrastructure.

The prize will be used to develop an Opportunity Accelerator for students, faculty and staff that focuses on creating access for underrepresented communities in STEM/R&D startups. The goal of the accelerator is to increase minority inventors with STEM/R&D inventions in technology areas in which Ohio State hosts meaningful activity.
Introducing the President’s Buckeye Accelerator.

If the impossible became possible, what would you attempt to do?

The President’s Buckeye Accelerator (PBA) supports student founders preparing a startup for launch. PBA combines entrepreneurship skill building, deep mentorship, community building and funding with a structured process.

More than 30 student teams participated in Boost Camp, a six-week pre-accelerator program. Ten Boost Camp participants were selected to pitch their ideas at the first-ever PBA Pitch Finale on April 6, 2022.

Six student ventures were chosen for the year-long President’s Buckeye Accelerator and will advance their startup for launch with a $50,000 award.

“The greatest challenge Ohio State faces in research and creative expression is not generating ideas—our students and faculty do that as naturally as breathing. It is making sure that those ideas move quickly into the world where they can do the best.”

President Kristina M. Johnson
President’s Buckeye Accelerator.

Boost Camp
Boost Camp, a six-week pre-accelerator program, launched in January 2022 and included skill-building support and mentorship. Successful entrepreneurs in various industries spoke to the Boost Camp participants, providing insights on how to launch and sustain a business.

Pitch Finale
The first-ever Pitch Finale welcomed a crowd of Boost Camp participants, community members, and Ohio State faculty, staff, and students. Ten student ventures pitched their ideas to a panel of Ohio entrepreneurs, with six ventures selected to advance to the President’s Buckeye Accelerator.
PROGRAMS

President’s Buckeye Accelerator Cohort 1.

A CUBED DESIGN

**Team:** Garrett Carder (College of Arts and Sciences), Caroline Karbowski (College of Arts and Sciences) and Enan Srivastava (College of Arts and Sciences)

**Company Description:** A Cubed Design is creating low-cost braille displays to reduce the braille literacy crisis by building a user ecosystem with an expandable device that combines the process of learning and using braille in everyday life.

PELORUS HEALTH (FORMERLY EMPOWER HEALTH)

**Team:** Anjali Prabhakaran (College of Education and Human Ecology), Chase Fensore (College of Engineering), Morgan Nemcek (College of Arts and Sciences), Angelina Atieh (College of Medicine)

**Company Description:** Pelorus Health is a SaMD (software as a medical device) designed to improve metabolic disease management for patients and providers through comprehensive health data tracking, AI-driven metabolic health insights, and a robust patient support network.

FOR THE LOVE OF PRIMATES

**Team:** Tessa Cannon (College of Arts and Sciences), Madelyn Green (College of Arts and Sciences), Melissa Renner (Community Member), Rian Nagel (Community Member), Michelle Gonzalez (Community Member)

**Company Description:** For the Love of Primates is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to provide lifelong care for primates retired from laboratory research. The organization works collaboratively with research professionals to make primate retirement ethical and sustainable.
**PARAWAVE (FORMERLY FIREFIGHT AERO)**

**Team:** Adithya Ramaswami (College of Engineering), Jack Murray (College of Engineering)

**Company Description:** ParaWave is developing drone technology to gather and communicate critical information for Fire Departments and a mission to help save the lives of emergency responders and the people in our community.

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**HOLOCRON TECHNOLOGIES**

**Team:** Addam Jensen (College of Arts and Sciences), Glenn Shell (Auburn University), Tristan Yang (Columbia University) and Jared Edwards (Columbia University)

**Company Description:** Holocron Technologies is a digital native intelligence company harnessing the power of SIGINT, OSINT, data analytics, deep learning, and artificial intelligence at the intersection of enterprise, academia, and government.

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**SERVUS**

**Team:** Yasmeen Quadri (College of Arts and Sciences), Simon Yacoub (College of Medicine), Danielle Sullivan (community member), Clayton Nelson (community member), Anitvir Taunque (College of Medicine), Ruhi Sahu (College of Arts and Sciences), Gus Scaria (College of Arts and Sciences) and Tabitha Willis (College of Arts and Sciences)

**Company Description:** ServUS is developing a mobile web app as a cost-reducing one stop platform for universities to help students implement socially innovative projects, for service organizations to incentivize and manage their student recruits, and for students to explore service opportunities that improve their wellness and build translational skills that the world needs for a sustainable 2050.
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Scholars.

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation (E&I) Program is a multi-disciplinary program designed to harness a passion for innovation and creativity while offering students the chance to live and learn with other students interested in exploring entrepreneurship.

Through experiential learning opportunities and networking with industry professionals, E&I students gain valuable leadership skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

Program learning experiences:

- First-year seminar course
- Extracurricular programming that connects to the entrepreneurial community
- Activities that promote team building, social connection, and inclusivity
- Leadership development through the E&I Student Executive Team
- Second-year capstone reflection
- Entry to Keenan Center student programming (BOSS, LaunchpadOSU and PBA)

Admitted scholars represent six different academic programs:

- Architecture
- Arts and Sciences
- Business
- Education and Human Ecology
- Engineering
- Exploration
Best of Student Startups.

Student startup competition.

Best of Student Startups is a semester-long program that provides students with a series of workshops on problem identification, business model development, marketing strategies and pitch deck development.

In fall 2021, 25 student teams participated in workshops, and five teams were selected to be part of the finale.
2021 Best of Student Startups.

**1st Place Winner**

**Company Name:** Branches

**Team:** Mel Gunawardena (College of Engineering), Blaise Tayese (College of Arts and Sciences), and Luke Ritter (College of Arts and Sciences)

**Idea:** Branches is a science-based learning management company founded on the psychological principle of spaced repetition. The Branches platform allows users to directly convert their handwritten notes into a hierarchy of flashcards designed to help them acquire long-term memory.

**2nd Place Winner**

**Company Name:** Yulo

**Team:** Andrew Gilgen (Fisher College of Business)

**Idea:** Yulo simplifies the oral care routine into one product with a reusable handle and multiple cleaning attachments, reducing plastic waste by 80%. Yulo operates as an oral care subscription service under the domain yulocare.com.

**People’s Choice**

**Company Name:** Grains

**Team:** Richard Giang (College of Arts and Sciences), Sri Uppalapati (College of Engineering), Yasmeen Quadri (College of Arts and Sciences), Owen Myers (College of Arts and Sciences), and Devon Sever (College of Engineering)

**Idea:** Grains is a software as a service (SaaS) taking the form of a web-based mobile app that helps recipe creators better connect with recipe consumers.
LaunchpadOSU

LaunchpadOSU is designed to be an accessible way for students of all majors to get a taste of the entrepreneurial process through experiential learning. Over three days in spring 2022, LaunchpadOSU welcomed over 60 students.

These individuals gained hands-on experience by:
- Forming teams with fellow LaunchpadOSU participants
- Collaborating with LaunchpadOSU teammates to brainstorm a new business idea
- Executing the pitch development process from start to finish – writing problem statements, studying the market, creating customer surveys and crafting the narrative
- Working with an experienced team of mentors
- Pitching their idea to judges for prizes

Students plan all aspects of LaunchpadOSU. The 2022 planning team was comprised of 18 undergraduate students, with Anna Lavin, Fisher College of Business, serving as executive director.
Le Moyne College Collaboration.

Students and administrators from the Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity at Le Moyne College came to Columbus for a two-day event featuring entrepreneur talks, makerspace facility tours and student hackathon in fall 2021.

Le Moyne College guests toured the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) and learned about Honda and Ohio State collaboration from Giorgio Rizzoni, director of Center for Automotive Research, and David Cooke, senior associate director and visionary behind the Venturi Buckeye Bullet.

The event concluded with students from Le Moyne College and Ohio State working in small groups to define the “why” of collaboration between the two centers and propose potential programs for the future. Each group put together a pitch containing a summary of the proposal, marketing plan, budget and desired outcomes of the program.

The Keenan Centers’ benefit from the generous support of Tim and Kathleen Keenan, Tim an ’81 alumni from Ohio State and Kathleen an ’81 alumni from Le Moyne College.