

# Engagement + Support Opportunities

*The Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation (E+I) serves ALL students regardless of major.*

## Service Learning + Classroom Engagement

We provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge that they're gaining in certain classes by partnering with outside businesses and nonprofits to create a unique service learning experience where students actually work on projects for those real-world organizations. We also design entire unique classes sponsored by outside organizations when synergy exists. Current examples are the health care and auto aftermarket industries.

### Service Learning + Classroom Engagement Opportunities:

- *Share your experience + expertise with the students by serving as a guest speaker in a class*
- *Have a student group work with your organization on a service learning project*
- *Work with us to design a unique sponsored class*

## Praxis Academy: Exploring Christ-Centered Entrepreneurship

Our partnership with Praxis Academy allows our students to explore the intersection of theology, culture, and entrepreneurship. Each summer, ten students and a faculty member attend the annual gathering in California. An exciting extension of our Praxis programming is a workshop that E+I hosts on the GCC campus in the Spring for prospective and current students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the college.

### Praxis Academy Opportunities:

- *Attend the Praxis Academy Workshop at GCC (**Warning:** Students regularly state that the Praxis experience has changed their lives!)*
- *Make a gift to support Praxis programming*

## GCC Elevator Pitch Competition: Learning to Pitch + Defend an Idea

The Grove City College Elevator Pitch Competition affords all students the opportunity to pitch their new venture ideas in two minutes to a panel of judges and offers cash prizes in two categories – Commercial and Social Enterprise. Over 100 students from a variety majors participate in this exciting event!

### GCC Elevator Pitch Competition Opportunities:

- *Serve as a judge for the Elevator Pitch Competition final round in the Fall*
- *Attend the Elevator Pitch Competition final round in the Fall*
- *Make a gift to become a named sponsor or to simply support the Elevator Pitch Competition*

## GCC VentureLab + Wolverine Innovation Fund: Where Students Start to Test + Build Ideas

The **GCC VentureLab** is an early-stage business and social enterprise idea lab that provides coaching, mentors, education, and funds to carefully screened teams. *(Noted graduate teams include Gecko Robotics, a Pittsburgh company that raised a Series A Round and is now saving lives in power plants around the country!)* The **Wolverine Innovation Fund** has been created to support the VentureLab program through charitable gifts from alumni and friends of the College. This is an ongoing fund where donors can begin their participation at any time. **Note:** *Gifts made by donors are charitable contributions, which may be tax deductible, and not equity investments.*

**GCC VentureLab Opportunity:** *Make a gift + participate in the Wolverine Innovation Fund Program*

## Venture U Seminar Series: Business Training + Advice from Business Pros

Venture U is a Spring seminar series that focuses on the nuts and bolts of starting a business. The 1-1½ hour sessions are delivered by experienced professionals and include focus areas of interest such as legal, accounting, marketing and branding, networking, intellectual property, prototyping, etc.

**Venture U Opportunity:** *Propose and teach an approved Venture U session*

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AT GROVE CITY COLLEGE

### **Wolverine Venture Battle (WVB)**

This competition provides an opportunity for all Grove City College students to apply their knowledge by developing a business idea, interviewing customers, prototyping, market testing, and presenting to potential “investors” to win real money and in-kind services. *This is not your father’s business plan competition!*

#### **WVB Opportunities:**

- *Serve on the WVB Review Panel for the Proof of Concept Round (done virtually)*
- *Serve as a team mentor (virtual or in-person)*
- *Make a gift to become a named sponsor or to simply support the Wolverine Venture Battle*

### **Richard G. Staley '62 Visionary Entrepreneur Speaker Series**

The Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation’s Richard G. Staley '62 Visionary Entrepreneur Speaker Series brings experienced entrepreneurs to campus to share their insights and wisdom. Each semester, E+I, which strives to promote an entrepreneurial culture across the College campus, hosts successful business men and women whose compelling stories of success and failure have inspired and enlightened our audiences and provoked thought and stimulated conversation.

#### **Richard G. Staley '62 Visionary Entrepreneur Speaker Series Opportunities:**

- *Request to be considered (or suggest someone) for a future speaking engagement in the series*
- *Attend a Richard G. Staley '62 Visionary Entrepreneur Speaker Series Event*

### **General Events: Providing Unique Student Experiences in Innovation + Entrepreneurship**

Each year, E+I holds various events to help students learn more about entrepreneurship + innovation outside of the classroom. Past events have included Silicon Valley Mock Interviews with an alum entrepreneur, a fashion workshop with ModCloth, a trip to Pittsburgh for the “Future of Robotics” event, and participation in the European Innovation Academy (EIA) for three weeks in Turin, Italy. E+I also offers several trips a year to Blue Tree Allied Angels’ meetings (Erie & Pittsburgh) where students can see how angel investing works behind the scenes.

#### **General Event Opportunities:**

- *Suggest an event that E+I should hold on campus*
- *Inform E+I regarding existing related off-campus events that students might be interested in attending*
- *Make a gift to support general E+I programming, international experiences, and local field trips*

### **Entrepreneurship Mentoring + Coaching Opportunities**

This Spring, E+I is launching an online portal that will facilitate the connection of our student entrepreneurs to business professionals, entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts. More information will be forthcoming, but please let us know if you’re interested in learning more when information becomes available.

**Mentoring + Coaching Opportunities:** *Email E+I Executive Director Yvonne English ([yjenglish@gcc.edu](mailto:yjenglish@gcc.edu)) to indicate interest (or just to say “hi”)!*

***If you are interested in any of the opportunities presented above or want additional information, please let us know by contacting us through our website at [www.gccentrepreneurship.com](http://www.gccentrepreneurship.com) or via email at [yjenglish@gcc.edu](mailto:yjenglish@gcc.edu).***

Thank you so much for your interest and support.