

Grove City College VentureLab + Wolverine Innovation Fund

The Grove City College VentureLab is an early-stage business and social enterprise idea feasibility lab that provides access to seed grants and guidance to carefully screened teams. The mission of the VentureLab is to help the Grove City College campus community explore and develop new ventures based on their own original concepts. The VentureLab serves as a valuable starting point for innovation and enables aspiring entrepreneurs to gauge the feasibility of their ideas. Students of all majors are encouraged to apply. To date, students from 16 different majors have participated.

Since September 2012, VentureLab has worked with 42 student teams. Past VentureLab teams have included ideas such as virtual reality services, international social enterprises, power plant inspection robots, mobile apps, revolutionary home security systems, and disability equipment.

Studies show that, with small micro-grants, ranging from \$500-\$5,000, students can reach their potential through increased progress. The Wolverine Innovation Fund* has been created to support the VentureLab program as well as these micro-grants through charitable gifts from alumni and friends of the College. This is an ongoing fund where donors can begin their participation at any time.

Wolverine Donor (\$10k+ commitment over a 3 year period)

- Invited to review and score (online) all VentureLab applications
- Receive periodic updates on progress from the funded projects
- Invitation to attend the Wolverine Venture Battle + Innovation Showcase (Family Weekend)
- Recognition and biography as a Wolverine Donor on the CEI website, feature on CEI social media accounts, and recognition on signage at the Wolverine Venture Battle + Innovation Showcase
- Recognition in all related press releases as appropriate

Wolverine Advocate (\$1,000 - \$3,000 per year)

- Invited to review and (online) score all VentureLab applications
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- Invitation to attend the Wolverine Venture Battle + Innovation Showcase (Family Weekend)
- Recognition as a Wolverine Advocate on the CEI website, feature on CEI social media accounts, and recognition on signage at the Wolverine Venture Battle + Innovation Showcase
- Recognition in all related press releases as appropriate

Wolverine Friend (\$500 per year)

- Receive periodic updates on team progress
- Recognition as a Wolverine Friend on the CEI website and feature on CEI social media accounts
- Invitation to attend the Wolverine Venture Battle + Innovation Showcase (Family Weekend) to see teams present on their progress

**The Wolverine Innovation Fund is not an investment fund. Donors are not investing in the companies. Donations made by donors are charitable contributions, which may be tax deductible.*

Donors and Advocates are active participants.

Application Process: Students submit application and materials to the Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation (CEI) who reviews the applications to ensure that they comply with the specified guidelines. The students' application materials will then be made available electronically to VentureLab Donors and Advocates for review and scoring. Once the scores are compiled, the CEI Executive Director will discuss the results with the appropriate faculty and staff to select the new VentureLab cohort.

Mentoring and Advising: If donors desire to be more involved with one or more teams, the CEI Executive Director will work with the interested individuals to determine the optimal level of involvement. Donors and Alumni have served as team mentors and coaches in the past and continue to be a resource for our student teams.

Meet the Teams: All donors, regardless of donation level, are invited to attend the annual Wolverine Venture Battle + Innovation Showcase during the Friday of Family Weekend at Grove City College. The VentureLab teams will present their progress in the program and will report out on their future plans. It's an informative and fun event.

How to Become a Wolverine Innovation Fund Donor/Friend

You can make a charitable gift to support the *Wolverine Innovation Fund* by making a one-time or multiyear commitment. Gifts can be made via check, credit card, or stock transfers.

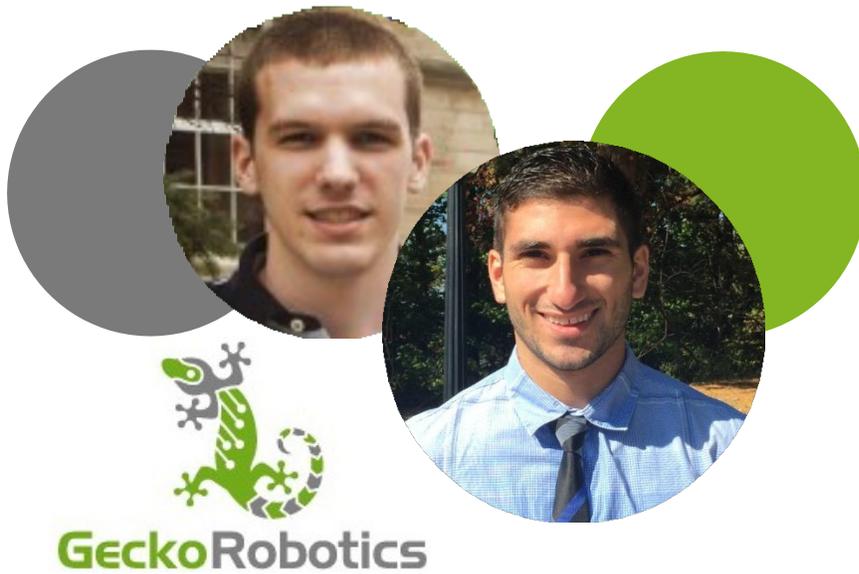
To make a gift, visit www.gcc.edu/givenow or send your gift via mail to: Advancement Office, 100 Campus Drive, Grove City, PA 16127. Please indicate that you desire your gift to be directed to the "Wolverine Innovation Fund".

If you have questions regarding the Fund, please contact Brian Powell '03, Sr. Director of Development at 724-458-2992, bmpowell@gcc.edu.



Featured VentureLab Alumni Team

Gecko Robotics



Gecko Robotics began as an engineering project and quickly developed into a much larger business. The four **Electrical Engineering majors (Ian Miller '13, Andrew Wilson '13, Orion Correa '13, and Jake Loosararian '13)** participated in VentureLab during the 2012-13 school year.

Tens of billions of dollars are lost due to power plant outages each year. Gecko Robotics Inspects power plant boilers in a faster and safer way than ever thought possible to cut these losses. They were accepted to the 2016 class at Y Combinator, the world's most powerful startup incubator, adding **Finance major Troy Demmer'11** to the team. They also took 3rd place in the 2016 Rice Business Plan Competition. *TechCrunch* listed *Gecko Robotics* as the *#1 Top Startup from Y Combinator's Winter '16 Demo Day*.

For more information, visit their website at www.geckorobotics.com.

Past VentureLab Teams

VENTURELAB COHORT 2017:

- **College Knowledge:** Erin Sixt '18 (MMGT), J.P. Popham '19 (ENTR)
College Knowledge is hoping to create a customizable online database, designed for college admissions, which seeks to answer questions of prospective students in real time.
- **Armeria Co.:** Angela Kim '18 (COMM)
Armeria Co. is an online women's clothing store featuring unique pieces of clothing, encouraging women to embrace their own personal style. These clothes are sourced by "professional thrifters" who search through thrift stores, flea markets, and garage sales to find fashionable pieces at a low cost.
- **Haven:** Chris Zimmerman '17 (COMP), Jonathan Brutt '18 (COMP), John Umble '17 (COMP)
Haven is a smart home security system that will be able to intelligently monitor and keep track of members of a family within their home without any smart wearables, in order to provide a secure and unobtrusive security experience.
- **MapYap:** Andrew Cunningham '17 (COMP), Jessica Lewis '17 (COMP), Tyler Mulley '17 (COMP), Nick Gillot '17 (COMP), Guilherme Pereira '18 (COMP), Connor Grumling '17 (COMP)
MapYap is a new social media platform based on a map and aimed at connecting people to virtual communities. People can post text, pictures or videos in social media feeds or "conversations" that are linked to a specific location. By "traveling" on the map interface, people experience being in a different location, and participate in the conversations there. MapYap provides people with the opportunity to virtually attend concerts, sporting events, conferences, and everything else!
- **PrintIt:** Stephen Weaver '17 (ENTR)
Millions of people are searching for low-cost housing or on a low-income, PrintIt. Millions of homeless people around the world need a real house, PrintIt. Using the power of 3D house printing, PrintIt provides very low-cost housing that is both of quality and modern taste. The construction industry is tipping, join the revolution and PrintIt.
- **Riot Racing RC:** Benjamin Tobias '19 (ENTR), Logan MacKenzie '17 (ELEE)
Riot Racing RC is a project that is exploring the possibility of connecting mechanical racing vehicles through the power of the internet in ways not made commercially possible before now.
- **RoboMic:** Matt Kauffman '17 (ELEE), Matt Vavro '17 (ELEE), Allie Olson '17 (ENTR), Mitchell Buzard '17 (ELEE), Ryan Brothers '17 (ELEE), Eric Martin '17 (ELEE)
Robomic is working on developing a microphone mount which allows a sound operator to remotely adjust the positioning of a microphone in order to best suit a speaker's position. This system takes the often neglected variable of microphone position and puts it in the sound engineer's tool bag, thereby providing a better listening experience for the crowd. It will also follow all industry standards so that it can be seamlessly integrated into any existing sound system.
- **StickPick:** Adam Lowe '18 (ENTR)
StickPick is a guitar pick made specifically for finger style playing. Its revolutionary design allows it to stick directly onto the fingernail for powerful playing, with a quick-release system making it reusable.

- **Studio Song:** Jordan Horst '18 (ENTR)
Studio Song is one application that hosts everything you need to write a song. From late night thoughts to prepping for the recording studio, Studio Song walks with you every step of the way. Edit lyrics and scratch recordings all in one place. Save drafts and record multiple tracks to build a song from the ground up. Share with anyone with its fully collaborative interface and get inspiration from suggested rhymes without ever exiting the app. Studio Song - streamlining the song writing process for musicians by musicians.
- **Team Up India:** Lindsey Reichert '17 (COMM), Ezekiel Hoole '18 (ENTR), Kelsey Patton '17 (COMM/FREN)
Using kid's love of sports, "Team Up India" will be an after school sports program in India that will teach kids about proper nutrition and fight malnourishment. The program will start cricket and football teams in schools in India with a Coach to teach them about good nutrition and make the connection between what they eat and how they perform. The program will raise funding and be scaled through corporate sponsorship as Indian companies are now required by law to donate 2% of their net profits to social projects.

VENTURELAB COHORT 2016:

- **Future Investment:** Elisabeth O'Brien '16 (ENTR), Hannah Vaccaro '18 (ENTR)
A personal finance learning platform for teens
- **Holiday Ham and Turkey:** Turner Dalmaso '18 (ENTR), Travis Yohey '18 (ENTR)
A commercial livestock farm in Rwanda that will support locals and spread the Gospel
- **Foodini:** Sam Kibler '16 (CSCI), Aaron Rosenberger '16 (CSCI), Seth Loew '16 (CIS), Mike Kytka '16 (CSCI)
The new "Uber...for food"
- **Immerse:** Ben Tobias '19 (ENTR), Logan Hammerschmitt '16 (ENTR), Charlie Mathews '16 (CIS), Dan Mitchell '16 (CSCI)
A virtual reality technology service
- **LightBrush:** Nathan Bergey '16 (ELEE), Drew Risinger '16 (ELEE), Devin Bergey '16 (ELEE), Megan Lynskey '16 (ELEE), Micah Koegler '16 (ELEE)
An app-controlled light painting tool
- **Restored Living:** Amy Rumbaugh '16 (ENTR)
Offering upcycled furniture to support educational opportunities for exploited women
- **Scribble Scrubs:** Megan Smith '17 (ENTR), Dale Reese '17 (ACCS/FNCE)
A custom scrub cap company that supports hospitalized children
- **Still Life Cubes:** Zachary Unkenholz '18 (ENTR)
A subscription service for still-life artists
- **Streamline:** Christina Vilbert '17 (POLS), David Kirk '17 (POLS), Bryan Denny '17 (POLS), Brooke Dymski '17 (POLS/COMM), Jamieson Weaver '17 (POLS/FREN)
An online political news source for millennials

VENTURELAB COHORT 2015:

- **Fan Fizz:** Connor Grieb '18 (ENTR)
A fountain drink machine that allows stadium visitors to refill their drinks...without having to wait in line!
- **Free Feet:** Matthew Leverknight '17 (ECON)
A manufacturer of footwear for people with disabilities which require them to use braces to support their legs
- **Kinbox:** Karolina Lagerquist '16 (ENTR), Andrea Howe '16 (MMGT), Jordan Jensen '16 (ENTR)
An organization dedicated to reestablishing meaningful relationships between nursing home residents and their families, because "Living Loved Matters"
- **Lunch Time:** Haley Nerlich '16 (ENTR), Ashley Henderson '16 (ENTR)
A food truck service that would give children free lunch during the summer months
- **Plant Chamber:** Joshua Weatherstone '15 (ENTR), Ron Dornin '15 (ELEE), Samuel Emery '15 (MECE), Lanze Heerdt '15 (ELEE), Matthew Freiwald '15 (ELEE), James Riel '15 (ELEE), Andrew Fischer '15 (ELEE), Ariel Wick '15 (MECE), Will Stumpf '15 (ELEE), Chris Collins '15 (MECE), Zachary Bentley '15 (MECE), Dalaney Algieri '15 (MECE), Jessica Lunn '15 (MECE)
A portable plant growth chamber that is functional, attractive, and economical
- **Pocket Gnomes:** Logan Hammerschmitt '16 (ENTR), Jonathan Graber '16 (ENTR), Zack Unkenholz '18 (ENTR)
Men's fashion pocket squares screen-printed with the picture of a gnome
- **Secure Communication Systems:** Thomas Umhau '16 (INDM), Samuel Blood '16 (ENTR)
A device that would ensure secure telephone communication cheaply and conveniently
- **Shameless Plug:** Steve Patterson '15 (CSCI), Josh Logan 2015 (MMGT)
A social website where users can go to market their creative projects to the rest of the world

VENTURELAB COHORT 2014:

- **Basically Greek:** Joshua Weatherstone '15 (ENTR), Elisabeth O'Brien '16 (ENTR)
A private social network for fraternities and sororities.
- **MOBU:** Michael Trombly '14 (ENTR), Brian Wilkes '14 (MECE)
A sharing kiosk for beach and all-terrain wheelchairs
- **Krut Industries:** Liam Krut '14 (CON), Chris Marasco '11 (ENTR), Matthew Show '00 (MBIO)
An anti-aging facial crème
- **Hard Rock Brushes:** Thomas Umhau '16 (MECE), Laura Mamo '14 (ENTR/FREN), Casey Woodcock '16 (ENTR), Sam Blood '16 (ENTR)
Based on the January fact-finding trip to India funded by VentureLab, the scope and direction of the original concept changed. It became a more focused project, centered on funding and supporting the creation of a single manufacturing business, while still establishing a sustainable fund to start other socially beneficial businesses.
- **WebDock:** Ben Che '16 (ENTR)
WebDock is a web app that offers individuals a unique brand that is established through a personal domain.
- **Stain Remover:** Brittany Schmitt '15 (ENTR)

A product that significantly reduces the notice-ability of armpit stains on shirts, allowing consumers to wear their favorite shirts longer and save money on replacement shirts.

- **Liner Lodge:** Karolina Lagerquist '16 (ENTR)
Liner Lodge is a commercial business offering a product that will take advantage of two powerful trends in the current marketplace: the explosive kitchen storage market and the resurging popularity of cupcakes.
- **Flora:** Victoria VanBuskirk '14 (COMM)
A social business enterprise that designs and sells planners and journals in an effort to help provide women in developing countries the opportunity to attend a university and obtain a degree.

VENTURELAB COHORT 2013:

- **Fast Join Networking:** Brad Holbrook '13 (CSCI), Matt Keibler '13 (CSCI), Dr. William Birmingham (faculty—CSCI)
A software system for quickly matching players in networked, mobile computer games
- **Gecko Robotics:** Ian Miller '13 (ELEE), Andrew Wilson '13 (ELEE), Orion Correa '13 (ELEE), Jake Loosararian '13 (ELEE)
Started as a senior design project, this robot makes power plant boiler inspections safer, more efficient, and more cost-effective
- **Sand Chariot:** Michael Trombly '14 (ENTR), Brian Wilkes '14 (MECE), Victor Nardini '13 (ENTR)
An innovative beach wheelchair designed to give the elderly and physically disabled the full beach experience: no time limits, no locale constraints and no difficulty to use
- **Kin Clothing:** Scott Inderbitzen '14 (ENTR)
A clothing line featuring clothing with a QR Code in its design that takes the customer to a web page about the specific cause that his/her purchase supports
- **Brallet:** Brittany Schmitt '15 (ENTR)
A wallet built into a sports bra
- **Set Trek:** Noah Walker '14 (FNCE), Erika Bastian '14 (BMGT), Chadwyck Cobb '14 (ENTR), Chesterton Cobb '15 (ECON)
A mobile app that connects the user to an archive of content from movies set in NYC, encouraging the user to reenact scenes from movies in the exact locations at which they were filmed
- **Rejib:** Hunter Stanchak '15 (ACCT/FNCE), Ryan Cypher '14 (ENTR)
A social networking site for free skiing enthusiasts

Thank you for your support!