



## Engagement + Support Opportunities

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

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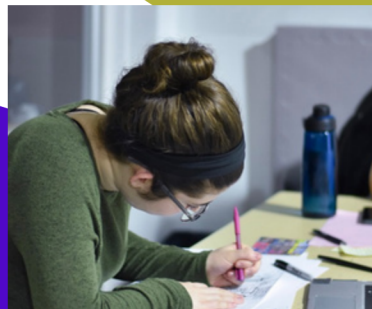
*Make no mistake – the concepts of  
entrepreneurship and innovation don't just apply  
when one is starting a business. Entrepreneurship  
and innovation are mindsets that transcend a  
student's choice of major.*

**Yvonne J. English '97**

Executive Director + Entrepreneur in Residence,  
The Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation  
Professor of Practice, Entrepreneurship Department

 [gccentrepreneurship.com](http://gccentrepreneurship.com)

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## 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!



### Engagement + Support Opportunities:

-  Serve on the WVB Review Panel for the Proof of Concept Round (done virtually).
-  Make a gift + serve as an “investor” for the final round of the battle held on Friday of Family Weekend in May.
-  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.

## Praxis Academy:


### Exploring Redemptive Entrepreneurship



Our partnership with Praxis Academy allows our students to explore the intersection of theology, culture, and entrepreneurship. Each summer, select students and faculty members attend the annual gathering in California. As a Design Partner with Praxis, E+I will be planning localized programming as well to benefit the entire campus community.



### Support Opportunity:


-  Make a gift to support Praxis programming + student scholarships to attend Praxis Academy.

## European Innovation Academy (EIA): Innovation in a Global Setting

Located in Cascais, Portugal, EIA is the world's largest summer study abroad startup program. Our students experience an innovation journey starting from team formation to pitching to investors. EIA has 650+ participants from all over the world and over 100 mentors and speakers from companies like Alchemist Accelerator, Air BnB, Facebook, Google, Adobe, and Microsoft. The program provides valuable inter-cultural experience in an international setting.



### Support Opportunity:



 Make a gift to support student tuition and travel to EIA.

## 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. Richard G. Staley '62 founded Flavor House, Inc., a leading developer and manufacturer of unique flavors used by many well-recognized brands. He received the Jack Kennedy Memorial Alumni Achievement Award in 2019, an award presented annually since 1964 to alumni who have had distinctive success in their fields.



### Engagement 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.

## GCC VentureLab + Wolverine Innovation Fund:

### Testing + Building 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 C Round of \$73M with Mark Cuban as an investor and is now saving lives in power plants around the country!)



The **Wolverine Innovation Fund** was created to support the VentureLab program through charitable gifts from alumni + friends of the College. This is an ongoing fund where donors can begin their participation at any time. If interested, Wolverine Innovation Fund donors are also able to actively participate in the program's application process and as mentors and advisors.



#### Support Opportunity:



Make a gift + participate in the Wolverine Innovation Fund Program.






## 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. Almost 200 students from approximately 30 majors participate in this exciting event!



#### Engagement + Support 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.



## E+I Work Studies:

### Real Experiences for Students, Real Impact for Organizations

The Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation has partnered with outside organizations to create unique work study tracks that provide students of all majors opportunities for real-world service learning experiences while being paid. These tracks run during one complete semester. This program allows our industry partners to engage our students' talents and creativity at a reasonable cost. Past tracks have included Social Innovation and Technology Startups.



#### Engagement + Support Opportunities:

-  Work with E+I to create a funded E+I Work Study program to benefit your organization.
-  Make a financial contribution to support the general Work Studies 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, selling your product/service, networking, intellectual property, pitching, prototyping, etc.



#### Engagement Opportunity:

Propose and teach an approved Venture U session.

## General Events:

### 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, and a trip to Pittsburgh for the “Future of Robotics” event. E+I financially supports student teams who compete in venture competitions locally, regionally, and around the globe. Finally, E+I offers several trips a year to Blue Tree Allied Angels’ meetings in Pittsburgh where students can see how angel investing works behind the scenes.



#### Engagement + Support Opportunities:

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-in-Residence and Mentoring + Coaching Opportunities

If you have a special skillset or expertise that can assist our student ventures, please let us know! We'd love to discuss potential mentoring + coaching opportunities with you.



### Engagement Opportunity:

 Email E+I Executive Director Yvonne English (yjenglish@gcc.edu) to indicate interest (or just to say "hi")!

## Classroom Engagement:

### Bringing the Real World into the Classroom

The Entrepreneurship Program provides 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 work on projects for those real-world organizations.

In unique cases, we also design entire unique classes sponsored by outside organizations when synergy exists, and student benefit is realized. Past examples have included the health care and auto aftermarket industries.

### Engagement + Support Opportunities:

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

*Thank you so much for your  
interest and support.*

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

If you are interested in any of the **financial support opportunities** presented, please contact your **Grove City College Development Officer** or the Grove City College Office of Development at **724.458.2992**.



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