



2025 Fall Semester Report



↓ WHAT'S INSIDE

Recap of the major E+I programming and milestones from the Fall 2025 semester

A Fall 2025 Retrospective

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E+I Marketing + Operations Manager

Yvonne J. English '97
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Professor of Practice

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E+I Assistant Director



Emma O'Toole '23
E+I Community Manager



Lynn Bashew '84
E+I Program Manager



With more than ever happening during this semester, we've been hard at work to deliver the best possible experience for our students. Throughout the semester, many memories were made; here are some of our favorites!

Emma O'Toole '23, E+I Community Manager: This semester's E+I Fellows program has been such a rewarding experience to witness. From Preview Night in Rathburn to the fan-favorite Pro Speaker Series and the hands-on weekly internship work, I've loved watching students grow from start to finish. Seeing their confidence build and knowing they're prepared for future internships and career opportunities has been the highlight of my semester.

Logan Hammerschmitt '16, E+I Marketing + Outreach Manager: This semester's huge increase in student entries to the Elevator Pitch Competition was incredible. To see such a huge increase in interest in this competition, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year, was awesome to see, and I have been told countless times that the finals this year was the best we've ever had!

Lynn Bashew '84, E+I Program Manager: Our Venture Village Tent at Homecoming was a highlight of this semester. I enjoyed working with the student teams and alumni businesses to get their displays set up under the tent. The weather was great, the crowd was plentiful, and it is always a joy to visit with alumni who come back to campus for Homecoming. I think it was our best Venture Village ever!

Robb Myer, E+I Assistant Director: This was my first fall semester on campus, and it's been so energizing to meet the freshmen class and hear their stories, passions, and visions for their entrepreneurial journeys. I'm grateful to play a small part in helping shape the next generation of redemptive builders at Grove City College.

Yvonne J. English '97, E+I Executive Director and Entrepreneur in Residence: I love to see students get truly excited about serving others through entrepreneurship. This year's Elevator Pitch Competition really showed off the hearts and minds of some of our young innovators, and I have no doubt that they are going to have a positive impact on the world, wherever God calls them to be after their time here.

Kickoff: E+I Open House

To kick off the fall semester, E+I held an open house in the Habbershon Family Innovation Zone. Students and faculty of all majors were invited to attend and learn about our offerings and programming while enjoying refreshments, community, and fun.



Students enjoyed the opportunity to spin the prize wheel for some E+I swag, and everyone in attendance walked away with a prize!

The event was well attended by students and faculty alike, demonstrating a strong interest in Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation programming.



September 4, 2025

E+I Fellows Preview Night



Students from across campus attended this career fair-like event for the E+I Fellows program to meet the host organizations for this semester and learn about all of the opportunities available to them. This event continues to grow in popularity, with each iteration larger than the last.



"I was continually reminded of how Grove City students are so well prepared to enter the workforce. Thank you to the E+I team for putting on such a great event!"

- Beth Panicucci, Built to Exit



A campus-wide reach



Scan to learn more about the program!



Preview Night drew a large audience, with over **125 students** in attendance to learn from the **nineteen** host organizations participating in the program. Students had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the host organizations, make a great first impression, and grab the attention of those deciding whom to interview and hire for each position. Host organizations praised the exceptional quality of interactions with students, while returning host organizations raved about the foundation the night lays for the program.



Homecoming



venture VILLAGE

Eighteen student and alumni businesses filled the **1600 square foot Venture Village tent** this fall! Everything from handmade goods to student led SaaS companies were on display, with unprecedented attendance from the GCC community. After attempting to keep track of the number of people to come through the tent, we lost count at 200, less than half an hour into the event, and estimate that **total attendance exceeded 750** people eager to learn more about entrepreneurship at Grove City College.

Major Collaboration with STEM



**SAFR
CHALLENGE**
PHYSICS INNOVATION COMPETITION
AT GROVE CITY COLLEGE



In collaboration with the GCC Department of Physics, E+I hosted the fourth annual SAFR Challenge, a competition that tasked students with developing a helmet to reduce the prevalence of concussions in wheeled recreation. Student teams from Dr. Glenn Marsh and Dr. Jeff Wolinski's Fundamentals of the Universe classes competed for cash prizes, and the competition was fierce! We are grateful to our sponsor, **2nd Skull**, for helping to make the competition possible this year!

Righteous Risk

A Faith Driven Entrepreneur Conference Watch Party



This fall, E+I hosted a watch party for the **Faith Driven Entrepreneur Conference**. Students and faculty of all majors were encouraged to attend to **watch the conference, enjoy refreshments, and engage in meaningful conversations** centered around the role that faith can play in an entrepreneur's journey and purpose!



Bill Lucas, Co-founder
LUMA Institute (acquired by Mural)



Mike Hatch, Founder
Redemptive Economics



Evan Addams '10, Founder
The Gather Company



Kirk Botula, Chief Strategy Operations Manager,
Innovation Works



Nate Tobik, Founder
Complete Bank Data

In our VentureU Business Seminar Series, open to the entire Grove City College community, we were fortunate to be able to host experts from across several disciplines. This semester marked our first-ever fall slate, featuring sessions on **Designing for Humans** and **Redemptive Economics**, along with insights from a three-member panel on **Redemptive Business**.

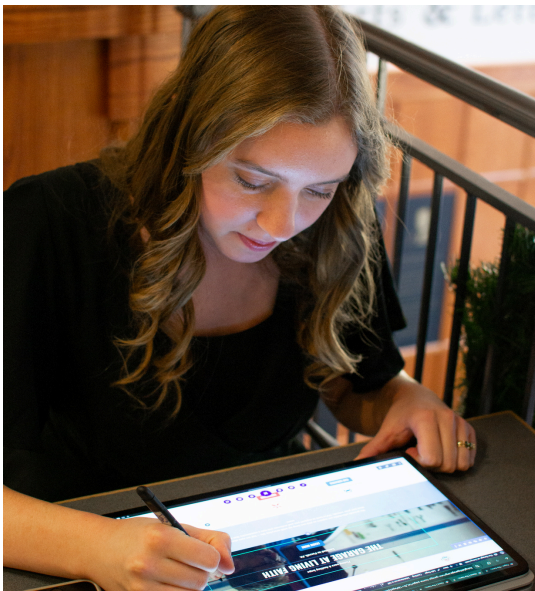


E+I FELLOWS



Connecting Grove City College students with organizations in the Pittsburgh region to grow impact + skills

The E+I Fellows program was created to facilitate economic growth within the Pittsburgh region by placing students from Grove City College at startups, small businesses, and nonprofits that need their expertise. These students gain valuable, hands-on experience that they can add to their resume while earning **\$25 per hour**—the highest wage available for an on-campus job—while also helping organizations, that may otherwise not be able to afford their services, grow and thrive.



E+I Fellows Continues to Create Massive Impact in the Region



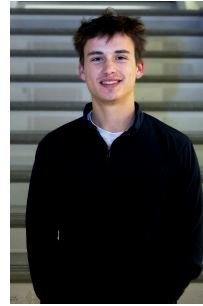
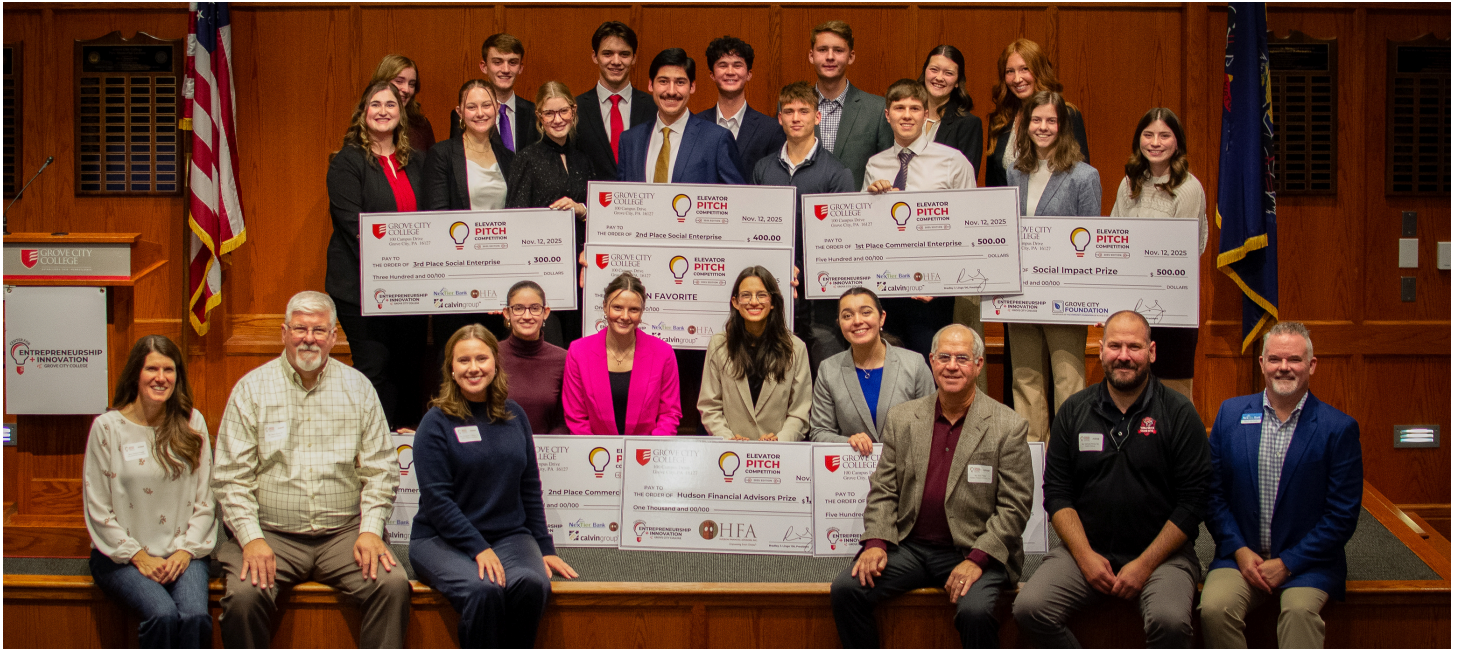
Host Organizations



Sharing HOPE. Empowering YOUTH. Building COMMUNITY.



Our continuation of the **8-week** E+I Fellows cohort for the fall semester began. 109 host organizations applied to participate. **Twenty-two student fellows** working with **19 selected host organizations** were selected to participate in this cohort, with overwhelmingly positive results, all with students earning **\$25 per hour!** Students worked as data analysts, event planners, financial analysts, and other mission critical jobs to help their host organizations grow. Students learned valuable lessons and gained in-demand skills that will help improve their future career prospects. The E+I Fellows program would not be possible without the support of the **Richard King Mellon Foundation** and another **anonymous donor**.



**ELEVATOR
PITCH
COMPETITION**

2025 EDITION



19th Annual EPC reaches new heights



The 19th Annual Elevator Pitch Competition was so big, Sticht Lecture Hall couldn't even contain it! Participation ballooned to **278 student participants** from **37 different majors**. Then, **114 generous reviewers** helped to narrow the field to **18 incredible finalists** who went on to compete live for a shot at **\$7,800 in prize money** thanks to the amazingly generous sponsorship of Hudson Financial Advisors, NexTier Bank, and the Calvin Group. This year's judging panel includes **five judges**: Don Tharp (Hudson Financial Advisors), Mitch McFeely (NexTier Bank), Elisabeth O'Brien '16 (IHG), and Mark Pentz '81 & Mike Pentz '06 (the Calvin Group). The judging panel selected the winners from each category (commercial and social enterprise), with fractions of a point determining the winners. In addition, Dorene Powell awarded the Social Impact Prize on behalf of the Grove City Foundation (an affiliate of the Community Foundation of W. PA & E. OH), and Don Tharp awarded the Hudson Financial Advisors Prize. An anonymous donor generously doubled the prize money for the winning teams on the day of the competition!

The crowd at the final round, held on November 12, 2025, filled Sticht Lecture Hall and two additional overflow rooms with a total attendance of **over 320 individuals** showing up to cheer on the finalists, plus over **450 viewers** who tuned in online. Additionally, **over 325 individuals cast their vote** for the Fan Favorite Prize!



Commercial Enterprise Winners

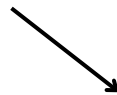
1st Place: Aaron Show '28
Venari Track (\$1000)

2nd Place: Rebekah Lockert '29
Let's Be Crafty (\$800)

3rd Place: Isabel Paul '28
AxisPack (\$600)

Tie-4th Place: Anna Kasianides '29
The Common Thread (\$400)

Tie-4th Place: Tyce Bowers '28
Shroudly (\$400)



Social Enterprise Winners

1st Place: Jessica Pratt '27
Adapted Adventures (\$1000)

2nd Place: Adam Wampler '29
Awkward Pause (\$800)

Tie-3rd Place: Claire Brandenburg '29
Clean that Bookshelf (\$600)

Tie-3rd Place: Sarah Karns '27 +
Julia Drake '27
The Diakoneo Project (\$600)



Social Impact Prize

Sarah Karns '27 + Julia Drake '27
The Diakoneo Project (\$500)



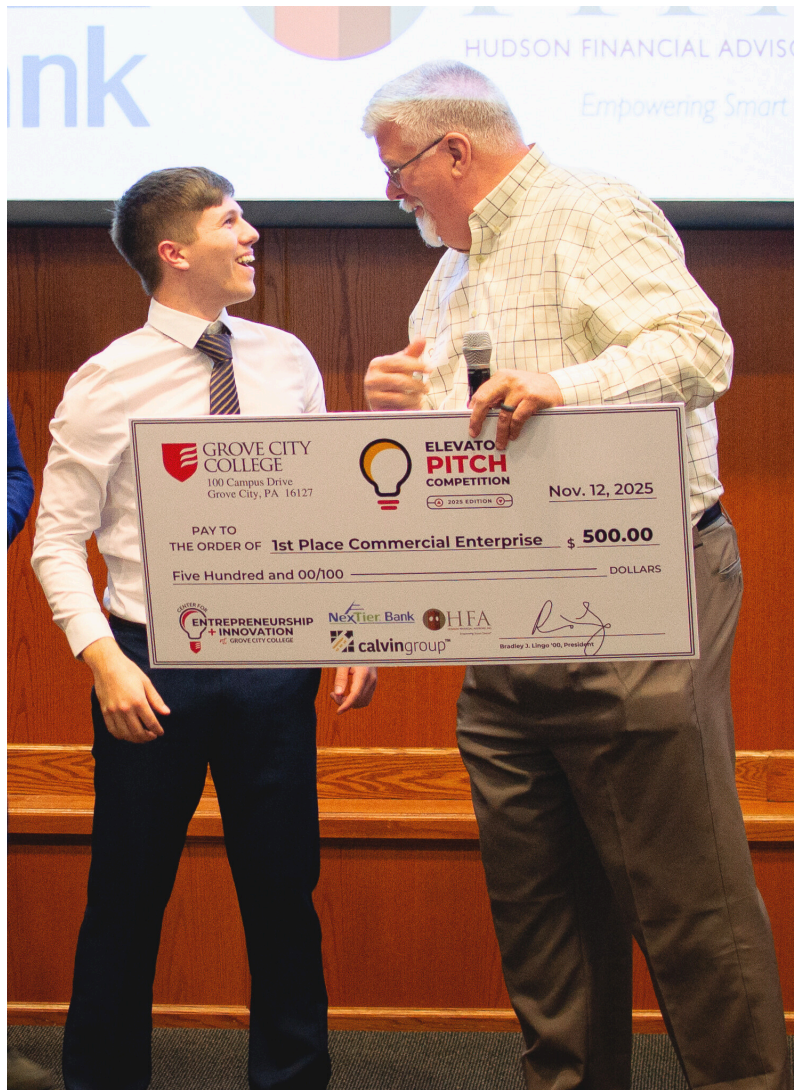
Hudson Financial Advisors Prize

Isabel Paul '26
AxisPack (\$1000)



Fan Favorite

Adam Wampler '29
Awkward Pause (\$100)



Sponsored by:

VentureLab and VentureLaunch produce promising startups

During the fall semester, VentureLab and VentureLaunch teams received coaching, mentorship, and expense reimbursement funding to assist in getting their businesses off the ground. This semester, six startups participated across the two programs with the hopes of bringing their offerings to market!

VENTURELAB

VENTURELAB is an idea feasibility lab designed to help students prove the validity of their ideas.

MULTIES **MULTIES** | A company striving to create an alternative option for men from the standard neck tie by designing ties that are as functional as they are fashionable.

VENTURELAUNCH

VENTURELAUNCH is a program designed to help existing businesses scale and grow.



NOMARK AGENCY

A marketing agency connecting outdoor brands with creators who can amplify their message and help them reach new customers.



RADIATE TRUTH

A Christian clothing company created to encourage customers to share the Gospel through what they wear.



VIORE

A company providing its customers with an easier, cleaner way to consume electrolytes and supplements by selling them in the popular k-cup format.



BRIGHTERRAE

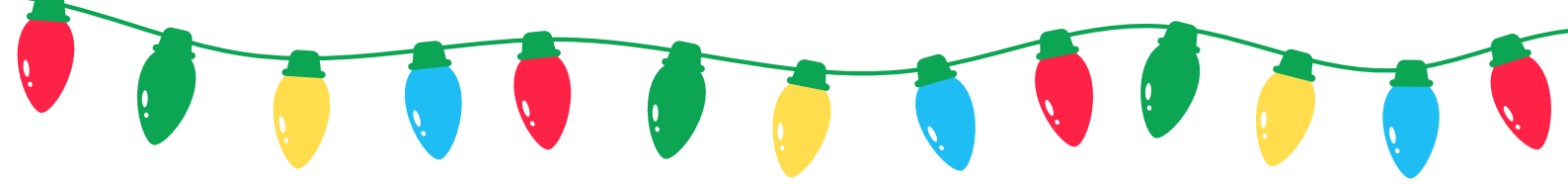
A company selling handmade goods including hand-painted bibles, prayer journals, and jewelry to further the kingdom of God.



THYMELY.AI

An AI software application designed to provide professors insights into their curriculum via timely one-question surveys.

The businesses above have shown early signs of future success, as interest in their products and services begins to rise. Some have only just begun to scratch the surface on ways they can make the lives of their target audience better, while others are already in the hands of customers making a difference for them! We are excited to see where these companies go in the future with the support of our programs.



A Very Merry Christmas from E+I!

During a joyful Christmas season, we were able to distribute our Christmas cards **(with artwork from GCC student Greta Paulding '27)** far and wide to raise awareness of E+I and thank all of our supporters and partners. We are grateful for everyone who supports, contributes, or has been part of our programming over the past 20+ years!



The Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation (E+I) creates and facilitates experiential learning activities and events centered on entrepreneurship and innovation for the entire student body, regardless of major.



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Connect with us @gccentrepreneur



gccentrepreneurship.com