

## **GCEC Award Nomination**

August 6, 2018

### **Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship across Disciplines**

This award honors a center dedicated to creating, advancing, and enabling entrepreneurship education opportunities to multiple audiences across campus. Selection criteria will include creativity of multidisciplinary approach, measured impact across campus, and diversity of partners and stakeholders.

#### **Application Criteria:**

- 1. Clearly state the purpose and goals of the activities, including target audiences and disciplines.**

The Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute is a nationally ranked hub for student entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of Utah and an interdisciplinary division of the David Eccles School of Business.

The first programs were offered in 2001, through the vision and support of Pierre Lassonde, an alumnus of the Eccles School and successful mining entrepreneur. The institute now provides opportunities for thousands of students to learn about entrepreneurship and innovation.

Programs include workshops, networking events, business-plan competitions, startup support, innovation programs, graduate seminars, scholarships, community outreach and more. All programs are open to students from any academic major or background. The Lassonde Institute also manages Lassonde Studios, a new five-story innovation space and housing facility for all students, in partnership with Housing & Residential Education.

The mission of the Lassonde Institute is “to provide students with transformative experiences through entrepreneurship.” It executes this mission through many programs and opportunities that allow students to develop their concepts, build teams, find expert mentors, prototype concepts and more.

All students at all academic levels at the University of Utah are equally welcome to participate in everything offered by the Lassonde Institute. This includes freshmen art students, chemistry post-doctoral students and everyone in-between. The Lassonde Institute actively invites these students to participate to enhance their campus experience and learn by doing.

Beyond inviting diverse students across the University of Utah, the Lassonde Institute also invites university students from across the state to participate in its programs. These students add another layer of diversity to the already broad range of students involved.

**2. Describe the multidisciplinary program and explain why the program is unique and/or innovative.**

The Lassonde Institute aims to reach all varieties of students at the University of Utah and other universities in the state. It is unique in the breadth and depth of the diverse students engaged. The institute is able to provide these experiences in large part because of resources like the new Lassonde Studios building. This new, one-of-a-kind, five-story facility provides students with an unparalleled scale of resources. The central location of the building on campus and variety of programs help to attract students from all disciplines on campus. Learn more about the building at <https://lassonde.utah.edu/studios>.

**3. Provide a list of three to five specific achievements and/or related outcomes, with a brief explanation, that illustrate Center's impact.**

Lassonde Studios is one of many examples that illustrate how the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute is bringing diverse students together. The 160,000 square foot facility is the meeting place for student entrepreneurs from all academic disciplines on campus. It also provides a place for varied students to mix and form interdisciplinary teams. Learn more about the building at <https://lassonde.utah.edu/studios>.

A second example is the Lassonde New Venture Development Center. This program was established in 2001 and allows graduate students from all disciplines to form teams and spend a year helping commercialize a faculty invention. Many successful startups companies have resulted from this experience, and more importantly, hundreds of students participating have received a unique experience that will benefit them in whatever career path they choose. The students learn the entrepreneurial mindset that they take to many future pursuits. Learn more about the Lassonde New Venture Development Center at <https://lassonde.utah.edu/new-venture-development>.

A third example is the Get Seeded monthly milestone grant program. This program provides grants of around \$500 to \$2,000 to student teams from across campus. This program regularly funds diverse projects originating from every

academic division of campus every month. Learn more about the Get Seeded program at <https://lassonde.utah.edu/getseeded>.

**Appendix:**

- 1. Provide a center organizational chart to include faculty, staff, other personnel, and strategic partners from other disciplines.**

The organization structure of the Lassonde Institute is another example of its interdisciplinary nature. The institute consists of six full-time staff members with diverse backgrounds and 160 student leaders who manage the many programs and engagement opportunities. These student leaders come from every academic division of campus and range from first-year to graduate students. The student leaders are selected in part based on their unique backgrounds and academic interests.

- 2. Include up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of the interdisciplinary program.**

View detailed information in the 2017 annual report for the Lassonde Institute:  
<https://lassonde.utah.edu/lassonde-institute-releases-annual-report-for-2016-17/>