

The GCEC awards are designed to showcase and celebrate the very best of university entrepreneurship. Each year, the GCEC recognizes the top entrepreneurship programs in the following categories. More than one winner may be selected in each category, except for the Nasdaq Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence.

Each submission is limited to 3 pages (PLUS, a cover page with contact information. An Appendix and/or Supplemental information (maximum 10 pages) should be provided and must be appended to the 3-page nomination and uploaded as a single PDF file. The total PDF file should be no more than 14 pages (cover page, 3-page nomination, and 10-page appendix) and no more than 10MB.

Excellence in Specialty Entrepreneurship Education

This award honors a center dedicated to expanding access to entrepreneurship education to a specific audience or area of focus, such as technology/knowledge transfer, social entrepreneurship, women in entrepreneurship, arts & humanities, non-majority populations, etc. Selection criteria include innovation of programming, measurable outcomes, partner engagement and long-term impact.

Application Criteria:

1. Clearly state the target audience for your specialty program and the genesis of the program.
2. Outline the program including expected outcomes, participants and partners. Provide examples of how the program has expanded access to entrepreneurship education to a unique, underrepresented and/or significant target audience.
3. Identify some of the unique characteristics of this program compared to your peers & discuss how other schools could replicate this program to serve specialty audiences.
4. Provide a list of three to five specific achievements to date with a brief explanation.
5. Appendix: Provide up to two (2) items of your choice that best reflect the goals and outcomes of your specialty entrepreneurship program.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's specialty entrepreneurship program 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. The Center's specialty entrepreneurship program has expanded access to entrepreneurship education to a unique, underrepresented and/or significant target audience.
2. The Center has developed a comprehensive program that addresses the distinctive talents, challenges and needs of the target audience.
3. Based on stated achievements and outcomes, the specialty entrepreneurship program has met or exceeded its stated objectives.
4. Center successfully describes how peer schools could replicate this program.
5. Based on the application, the Center's specialty program distinguishes itself from peer programs through its novelty, innovativeness or uniqueness.

Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center

This award honors an entrepreneurship center that is 5 years old or less (from official Center launch date). Applicants must clearly state the purpose and goals of the center and include the target audience (s). Highlight what you believe differentiates the center from peer centers. This might include but is not limited to a specific challenge you overcame to launch the Center, how you created buy in with key stakeholders, ability to attract major donors, engagement with cross campus or community partners, etc. Selection criteria will include Center's objectives, campus and community engagement, program portfolio and metrics to date.

Application Criteria:

1. Briefly explain the rationale for creating this entrepreneurship center including who the stakeholders are and how you garnered their interest and support.
2. Outline the strategic goals, objectives, metrics and team structure used to launch the center.
3. Provide a graphical timeline depicting major milestones for the development of the center from conception to current year. Include the initial milestones you set and how you met them.
4. Provide a list of three to five specific achievements to date with a brief explanation. Include highlights that illustrate what makes this Center unique.
5. In the first five years, explain how you have distinguished the center from its peers.
6. Appendix:
 - Provide a center organizational chart to include faculty, staff, other personnel, and strategic partners.
 - Include up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of your emerging center.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's entrepreneurship program 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. The Center launched with clear goals and objectives.
2. The Center has engaged key stakeholders including faculty, donors, alumni, students, local entrepreneurs and other partners.
3. The Center has built a team capable of executing on their objectives.
4. The Center has demonstrated early success based on a set of clear metrics.
5. The Center distinguishes itself from its peers through its novel, innovative or unique approach.

Outstanding Contributions to Venture Creation

This award honors a center that creatively supports the process of launching and accelerating university affiliated startups through 1) competitions, 2) incubators, 3) accelerators, or 4) other programs. Selection criteria will include the strength of program content, specific outcomes of the program, growth of program over time and level of community engagement.

Application Criteria:

1. Clearly state the contribution's purpose, strategic goals, objectives and intended target audience.
2. Describe how the venture acceleration program works and how it supports the launch and growth of university-affiliated startups.
3. Outline how the program engages the community (faculty, alumni, mentors, funders) with the associated ventures and entrepreneurs.
4. Provide a list of outcomes achieved from efforts in any of the types of activities (competitions, incubators, accelerators) to include:
 - Number of participants
 - Number and amount of awards granted to students
 - Number of startups generated
 - Number of startups that generate revenue
 - Number of startups that are in business two years after participating in the Center's programs
5. Appendix: Include up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the content and outcomes of your program.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's venture creation program 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. The Center's venture creation program has clear goals for how they support the launch and growth of university affiliated startups.
2. The Center has developed a comprehensive venture creation program. Factors might include content, mentors, seed funding, workspace or other valuable resources.
3. The venture creation program effectively engages a breadth of contributors from the campus and external community.
4. The measured outcomes indicate the Center is achieving outlined goals, and that the ventures being created are achieving revenues and economic sustainability.
5. Based on the application, the Center's venture creation program distinguishes itself from peer programs.

Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship Across Disciplines

This award honors a center dedicated to creating, advancing, and enabling entrepreneurship education opportunities to multiple audiences and units 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 activities purpose, strategic goals, objectives and intended target audience.
2. Explain how the center has leveraged strategic partners, resources and networks to develop a comprehensive program.
3. Describe the multidisciplinary program and explain why the program is unique and/or innovative.
4. Provide a list of three to five specific achievements and/or related outcomes, with a brief explanation, that illustrate the Center's impact.
5. Explain how this activity distinguishes the center from its peers.
6. Appendix:
 - Provide a center organizational chart to include faculty, staff, other personnel, and strategic partners from other disciplines.
 - Include up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of the interdisciplinary program.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's multidisciplinary program 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. The Center's multidisciplinary program has identified a unique approach for advancing entrepreneurship activities to multiple audiences.
2. The Center has activated a significant group of strategic partners and resources from other disciplines to achieve the goal of the program.
3. The Center has created a unique and innovative approach to multidisciplinary entrepreneurship education
4. Based on the stated achievements and outcomes, the interdisciplinary program's impact has met or exceeded the stated objectives.
5. The Center has instituted mechanisms for ensuring the sustainability of multiplinary collaborations on the campus.
6. Based on the application, the Center's multidisciplinary program distinguishes itself from peer programs.

Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation

This award honors a center that has developed a significant original innovation in entrepreneurship pedagogy. Selection criteria includes differentiation from existing programs, measurable learning outcomes, student engagement and stakeholder support.

Application Criteria

1. Clearly describe the pedagogical innovation your center has developed.
2. Briefly discuss the rationale for creating this original innovation and describe the curriculum, tools, resources and partners required to implement this innovation.
3. Outline how the Center is measuring the learning outcomes and impact of this approach.
4. Provide examples for how this innovation is being used at your center and how it could be replicated elsewhere.
5. Appendix: Provide up to two (2) other items of your choice that demonstrate the innovativeness of your pedagogical approach and application within your Center.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's teaching and pedagogical innovation 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. The Center has developed an innovative pedagogical approach to entrepreneurship education.
2. The application clearly describes the rationale, curriculum, tools, resources and partners required to implement this innovation.
3. Based on the stated rationale and outcomes, this pedagogy is a significant improvement over existing teaching methods and tools.
4. The Center provides tangible evidence of the effectiveness of this approach with students in general or with types of students.
5. Peer schools could or should replicate this program.

Outstanding Student Engagement & Leadership

This award honors a center that amplifies their impact by achieving high levels of student engagement and student leadership in its entrepreneurship programs. Selection criteria includes level of student engagement, impact of student leaders on Center and variety of students' projects.

Application Criteria

1. Discuss the various programs or initiatives your Center supports to engage a broad spectrum of students to achieve the Center's goals. How do you empower students to lead or own these efforts?
2. Highlight one to two specific efforts that demonstrate student leadership in your Center. Efforts should communicate the types of initiatives your Center executed that would not have happened without student leadership.
3. What metrics do you use to measure success? How do you benchmark these efforts vs. other co-curricular activities on your campus?
4. Appendix: Provide up to two (2) other items of your choice that demonstrate student engagement & leadership. This could include testimonials from engaged students.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's student engagement and leadership 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. Center has developed a range of activities to engage student entrepreneurs, startup enthusiasts, students in general, and campus leaders.
2. Center has a methodical approach to student engagement that could be replicated by peer schools.
3. Center is exemplar in empowering students to execute on Center programs and initiatives.
4. Based on the metrics provided, the Center has a high level of engagement across a number of student populations and a demonstrated method for tracking both students reached and student impact.

Exceptional Contributions in Entrepreneurship Research

This award honors a center that is dedicated solely or as part of their overall mission to support the creation of new entrepreneurship knowledge through research that advances the discipline.

Application Criteria

- Clearly state the purpose and goals of your center relative to research (your research agenda) and include what differentiates your program from others doing research.
- Explain whether your research is more academic or applied, who the audience is for the research, and streams or research areas that your program is known for.
- Briefly describe how your center supports research that advances the discipline of entrepreneurship and include (this may include such things as publications, journal management, reviewing, serving as discussants, and academic conference management).
- Discuss how stakeholder interest and support have been gathered for the center's research effort.
- Provide a list of specific achievements (publications, awards, etc.) to date with a brief explanation.
- Appendix (not included in the 3-page limit):
 - Provide a center organizational chart depicting the relationship of research to other center activities.
 - Provide up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of supporting the importance of your Center's research efforts.

Judging criteria: Rate the Center's student engagement and leadership 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

- Volume of research produced by those associated with the entrepreneurship center or program
- Quality of outlets in which the research was published or disseminated
- Potential of the research to significantly advance the discipline of entrepreneurship
- Number of faculty and staff involved with entrepreneurship research
- Support for research in the discipline of entrepreneurship beyond publishing (e.g., reviewing, journal management, hosting conferences, serving as discussant)
- Demonstrated ability to connect research efforts to other aspects of center programming (e.g., teaching, co-curricular programs, community engagement)

Nasdaq Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence

The Nasdaq Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence award represents the highest honor that a University Entrepreneurship Center can receive. This special award was created by Nasdaq in association with the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers for the purpose of recognizing the unique achievements and outstanding efforts of entrepreneurship centers across the world.

The Nasdaq award honors those centers that have made and will continue to make enormous contributions in advancing entrepreneurship as the force in economic growth throughout the world. The honor is bestowed upon entrepreneurship centers that have made remarkable advancements in the entrepreneurial field in the following areas:

- outreach to emerging ventures
- entrepreneurship curriculum
- community collaborations
- special projects
- overall prestige
- recognition in the entrepreneurship field
- entrepreneurship research

Selection criteria is based on the breadth and depth of programs outlined, prestige of center, sustainability of programs, contributions to the advancement of entrepreneurship education and commitment to GCEC.

Application Criteria:

1. National prestige of the entrepreneurship program/center (national rankings or other recognition).
2. National/State recognition achieved (awards, achievements, recognition from other outside organization - e.g. U.S. Association for Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Academy of Management, previous GCEC awards).
3. Entrepreneurship breadth of programming, program quality and longevity of the program (Ph.D., MBA, BS).
4. Entrepreneurship curriculum development (courses specifically designed for major/minor programs).
5. Contributions to entrepreneurship research (Publications/Books/Etc).
6. Outreach activities (significance & uniqueness to the entrepreneurship center).
7. Community collaborations (specific to the entrepreneurship center).
8. Special projects or accomplishments (unique to the particular center).
9. University/community commitment to the entrepreneurship center in terms of endowment, space, and presence.
10. Commitment to the GCEC.
11. Appendix: Optional - Up to 10 pages of collateral and/or supporting information (non-text).

Judging criteria: Rate the Center as an example of Entrepreneurial Excellence 1 - 10 on the following criteria:

1. Center has been recognized as a leader in the field by a variety of organizations.
2. Center itself has an entrepreneurial spirit, as evidenced by its suite of innovative curriculum, programs and initiatives.

3. Center perennially attracts a growing number of students, campus & community partners, donors, faculty and alumni to its programs.
4. Center is viewed as a pillar of the campus and community entrepreneurship ecosystem.
5. Center has demonstrated its role as a leader in terms of academic and/or applied entrepreneurship research.
6. University has increased its support of the Center through additional funding, space and visibility.
7. Center director and staff annually attend GCEC conferences, contribute to panel discussions and apply/win other GCEC awards.
8. Center distinguishes itself from its peers across all categories. This Center is an aspirational peer for the entire GCEC community.

GCEC Legacy Award

This special award is for pioneering work in advancing entrepreneurship in universities and/or directing a university entrepreneurship center that created a legacy impact on the field of entrepreneurship.

Candidates should have demonstrated the following:

- A long-term commitment to entrepreneurship in an academic setting, either as a faculty member, educator, and/or center or institute director.
- Achieved a standard of excellence in an area of university-affiliated entrepreneurship and made a substantial impact upon students, faculty, staff, startups, and/or region, or contributed to the enhancement of other entrepreneurship programs at other universities
- Clear examples of how he or she made a major impact on at least one of the following:
 - University entrepreneurship program: the individual should have made a highly significant contribution to the advancement of entrepreneurship within one or more universities, and specifically made a seminal difference in one or more of the following areas: center development and growth, enhanced quality of offerings and reputation, curriculum and degree program development, co-curricular programming, university-wide entrepreneurship, community engagement.
 - GCEC organization: the individual should have significantly contributed to the growth or enhancement of the GCEC organization and/or have made major contributions to the advancement of GCEC's mission to share best practices among universities in order to advance academic entrepreneurship

Examples of impact could be:

- Teaching: Candidates may have contributed significant innovations to curriculum design, creation of degree programs, course development, teaching methodologies, and/or pedagogical tools and approaches.
 - Center: Candidates may have contributed to the growth of an entrepreneurship program or center at a university that had significant impact upon that university or region
 - Candidates may have contributed to a university program that have a significant impact on the region, e.g., economic development and venture creation through incubation, seed funding programs, mentoring, student consulting, community events, ecosystem coordination, and other kinds of engagement.
 - Candidates may be thought leaders who have contributed research or scholarly contributions that affect how we teach entrepreneurship, assist student entrepreneurs, or foster entrepreneurship in the community.
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- The award recognizes exceptional contributions, with the review process considering the entirety of the individual's body of work.
 - The individual and/or the individual's organization should be well regarded, have been recognized and/or have significant measurable outcomes.
 - This award will only be given when there is a candidate that meets the above criteria. The award may or may not be presented each year.
 - The awardee is expected to attend the GCEC Conference to receive the award. An exception may be made for health reasons. The award may be given posthumously.

- The awardee should be nominated by another individual (other than the nominee). The nominator can be someone at the same university or same center/institute or from a different university.
- The nomination should be limited to a maximum of 3 pages and submitted via PDF. It should include a description and examples of how the candidate meets the profile described above. Please title the PDF file: “GCEC Legacy Nomination – FirstName LastName”.