



**MAYS BUSINESS SCHOOL**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR NEW VENTURES AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Imagine. Learn. Act.

# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

POWERED BY **CNVE**

## Raymond Ideas Challenge

The Ideas Challenge is designed to foster an entrepreneurial and innovative mindset by asking students to submit their “big idea” in both a written and video application. The Ideas Challenge is less involved (and less intimidating) than a fully-developed business plan competition, to encourage more non-business student participation. The top 40 ideas are selected and trained for oral presentations to judges from the business community awarding over \$8,000 in cash prizes. The Challenge helps students develop the ability to think in an entrepreneurial way, develop the competencies needed to identify and successfully implement new business ideas, and enhance their written and oral communications skills.



THE RAYMOND  
**ideas**  
CHALLENGE



## The Aggie 100

The Aggie 100 program recognizes and celebrates the success of Aggie entrepreneurs from around the world. Launched in 2005, this annual program also provides a forum for business leaders to share their stories and lessons learned with today’s students. Nominations are sought each Spring for fast growing Aggie-owned or-led businesses. Those nominated are then ranked by compound annual percentage growth in revenues over a 3-year period. The fastest growing companies are named to the Aggie 100 and are invited to an awards luncheon and reception on campus each Fall. The Aggie 100 program is one of the most successful engagement opportunities, with hundreds of students and faculty interacting with these successful Aggie entrepreneurs as they return to campus.

## Startup Aggieland

Startup Aggieland is a student business accelerator that provides students of all majors’ access to a peer-led startup community of innovative entrepreneurs and co-working space to explore game-changing business ideas. Startup Aggieland provides all currently enrolled Texas A&M students the opportunity to apply for free access to entrepreneurial resources, including webhosting services, legal guidance, furnished office/meeting space, mentorship and consultation, and access to experiential and educational opportunities throughout the year.



## Entrepreneurship Empowerment in South Africa



This study abroad program is a life-changing experience, where students help and learn from historically disadvantaged entrepreneurs in the Black townships near Cape Town, South Africa. Students form consulting teams working with small businesses over 6 weeks to help make the ventures sustainable. They work closely with entrepreneurs in the townships, where they struggle to overcome a history of apartheid, limited education, and severely constrained resources. Their ventures range from catering and arts & crafts businesses to community newspapers and small manufacturing operations. EESA is open to students of all majors who will have achieved junior status or above, including graduate students, before the start of the summer program.

## 3 Day Startup

The mission of 3 Day Startup (3DS) is to build entrepreneurial capabilities and culture at TAMU by giving students a real-life, fast-paced entrepreneurial experience. The concept of 3DS is simple: validate a business idea and launch your company over the course of three days. 3DS utilizes Startup Aggieland work space for an entire weekend, recruits 50 students with a wide range of backgrounds, and invites top entrepreneurs to mentor teams. Business ideas are selected from the students during a brainstorming session on Friday, and a minimal prototype and business model is created and presented on Sunday night. 3DS ultimately connects student participants with a powerful network of mentors, investors, and talent, and allows them to build enough entrepreneurial momentum to sustain the company opportunity beyond the weekend.



## MBA Venture Challenge



The Challenge asks teams of MBA students to quickly and effectively evaluate early stage firms, providing a clear, unbiased, and business-oriented evaluation of the businesses’ strengths and weaknesses. MBA students deliver an elevator pitch and full “due diligence” presentation to judges from the business, investment, & academic communities, who determine winners of cash prizes totaling \$10,000.



### Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)

EBV is a premier program designed to assist post 9-11 veterans with service disabilities who are interested in starting their own business. This program offers training in small business launch and management through a standardized 3-phase EBV curriculum: Phase I self-study online session with discussions moderated by volunteer faculty; Phase II a week-long residency on-campus, where veterans are taught by faculty and mentored by volunteers on the basic elements of small business management; Phase III involves 12-months of ongoing support, resources and mentorship for EBV graduates.

### Aggies in Business

In 2006, CNVE launched Texas Aggies in Business, Inc. (AiB), a dynamic program that further complements the lessons taught every day in the classroom. An official affiliate of Texas A&M University, AiB is a Texas not-for-profit corporation managed and operated by students. AiB engages student consultants to perform contract projects for real-world companies, gaining expertise in key business functions such as sales and market research, customer discovery and accounting services. AiB student consultants conduct projects, prepare and present proposals, and deliver research results to diverse clientele.



### I-Corps



The National Science Foundation's I-Corps program is a nation-wide federal grant program designed to help university researchers test their early scientific discoveries for product-market fit and, if successful, begin the process of technology commercialization. CNVE has partnered with the University of Texas at Austin and Rice University to form the Southwest Node for I-Corps, one of 7 national Nodes aimed at training researchers to think entrepreneurially and expanding the I-Corps methodology and commercialization process throughout universities, Jr. Colleges and K-12 throughout the region.

### Entrepreneurship Society

The Entrepreneurship Society (E-Society) is a sanctioned TAMU Student Organization aimed at building a community of like-minded students from across campus who share an interest in entrepreneurship and want to know more about starting and growing their own business. E-Society provides its student members opportunities for informational seminars, networking, training workshops and service projects. Often considered the "first-step" for entrepreneurially-curious students, E-Society provides an easy path of introduction into the campus entrepreneurship community.



### Start-up 101



Created in 2006, Start-up 101 is an evening workshop series for students, faculty, and the community to learn basic lessons in entrepreneurship. Start-up 101 is hosted by E-Society, who coordinates workshop leaders from the business community and faculty to address a variety of entrepreneurial topics, such as: Marketing/Branding, Lean Launch Methods, Customer Discovery, Business Modeling and Planning.

### Aggie Entrepreneurship Saturday

In partnership with the Association of Former Students, CNVE annually hosts Aggie Entrepreneurship Saturday (AES), designed to engage former students who are or are considering becoming an entrepreneur. The goal of this Saturday workshop is to help develop successful Aggie entrepreneurs and leverage the powerful Aggie Network to create connections between entrepreneurial former students and on-campus resources and expertise.



### Aggie Angel Network (AAN)

The Aggie Angel Network (AAN) is a not-for-profit Texas corporation (501(c)6) facilitating the introduction of entrepreneurs to potential angel investors (SEC-accredited) through networking events. AAN screens and mentors early stage companies and invites select candidates to pitch for potential angel investment by AAN members. Since its inception in 2010, AAN members have invested almost \$8.5 million across 26 companies.

Learn more about many other programs offered by the Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship:

<http://cnve.tamu.edu>

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