



Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Program Overview

The Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center, a center of the College of Business and Public Affairs at West Chester University, promotes entrepreneurship within the university and throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. The center launched in April 2009 with the goals of

- Inspiring students to engage in entrepreneurial ventures by exposing them first hand to entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial environments
- Facilitating economic development in the region by assisting startup firms as they move toward economic viability
- Fostering entrepreneurship literacy

The Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center provides access to the many resources of West Chester University and the College of Business and Public Affairs by offering seminars and workshops, guest lectures, internships and online resources, as well as providing consulting teams to assist startups and small businesses.

Recent Accolades

The center was awarded an Entrepreneurial Leadership grant by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to foster entrepreneurship among students and stimulate economic development. The School of Business is an AACSB accredited school. West Chester University is ranked among Kiplinger's 100 best values in public colleges for its outstanding economic value and top-notch education.

Outreach & Economic Development

The Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center in conjunction with the College of Business and Public Affairs is committed to use its collective expertise to assist start-ups and small businesses in achieving economic viability. Consulting teams made up of faculty members and groups of students work on projects addressing needs identified by startups and small businesses in areas such as marketing, market research, strategic planning, scientific research, survey research, cost accounting, MIS research, IT planning, and statistical research. In addition, the center places interns in startups and small businesses, providing full or partial funding for the interns to offset the limited resources of such businesses. Working on consulting teams or as interns, students have a unique opportunity to experience first-hand, the risks, challenges and victories associated with start-ups and small businesses, expanding students' view of entrepreneurship from an abstract concept to a real-world experience. The center also provides a wide offering of web-based resources and hosts its annual Entrepreneurial Leadership Speaker Series featuring successful entrepreneurial leaders who address timely entrepreneurship related topics. The Cottrell Center works closely with the regional Pennsylvania Keystone Innovation Zone to assist early stage companies. In spring 2011, the center signed an educational partnership with the Keiretsu Forum Philadelphia, an affiliated group of private equity investors.

Entrepreneurship Education

In addition to infusing entrepreneurship in courses across the university, West Chester University offers several entrepreneurship courses at the graduate and undergraduate level including Managing a New Venture, Entrepreneurship, and Management Senior Seminar.

Entrepreneurship Research

Faculty research includes an ongoing global entrepreneurship research project examining the motivations, challenges, and success factors of entrepreneurs from countries around the globe including Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and Vietnam. Other research projects focus on initial public offerings and women entrepreneurs.

Contact Information

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