

UA Student Innovation Fellows

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The program, sponsored by the Office of the CIO and ITSAB, will engage students interested in gaining exposure to commercialization and skill/interest-based engagement in Tech Launch Arizona's (TLA) robust commercialization environment. The Fellowship Program will promote the UA's mission to foster and increase technology commercialization in southern Arizona and cultivate a technology-development prepared workforce.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- The program offers a two-semester fellowship commitment. A weekly time commitment of 10 hours is expected from selected applicants and will be scheduled based upon the availability of the fellow and his/her project area assignments. The fall semester will be credit-based, and the spring semester will be employment-based at a rate of \$10/hr. Credit may be available through the student's home department or through an Eller College-based department. Fall semester credit work will require development of a teaching case or technology specific implementation plan, based on the individual's commercialization experience in TLA.
- Fellows will be selected by Dean's invitation from their home college and based on demonstrated interest in commercialization topics. Once Fellows are selected, each will meet with TLA team member(s) to develop an individual profile, consisting of an assessment of interest areas, skills, and goals. A specific project plan, including learning, objectives, timeline/milestones, and outcomes will be designed based on TLA need intersecting with fellow profile.
- Fellows will participate in meetings with experts, faculty, and administration focusing on intellectual property and data management development and strategy for research. Fellows will be invited to various IT-related, commercialization, and innovation-focused events as well as exclusive networking opportunities throughout the academic year. Students will showcase their work at the Student Technology Fee Showcase, hosted by the Office of the CIO and ITSAB.
- Fellows will meet with their TLA project leader and other Fellows regularly to discuss projects and experiences. For each position, a semester evaluation will take place at the end of both semesters (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016).
- The program is open to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at the UA.

To recommend a student:

One dean's recommended student from each IP generating colleges will be accepted to the fellowship program. Please provide the following items from your college's nominee:

1. A personal statement to include student's interest in commercialization topics, what the student hopes to achieve from the fellowship, specific interest areas such as industries, markets, segments, etc., and the student's skills most applicable to advancing TLA goals
2. Current resume
3. Dean's letter of recommendation (specific to the Fellows Program)

Please forward materials via email to sherryj@tla.arizona.edu

Highlighting the 2014-15 Inaugural Innovation Fellows Program

The Innovation Fellows program provides a unique opportunity for students to develop a strong foundation for entrepreneurial learning and experience. Each student was assigned to a unique startup project, and each at different stages to provide a full range of experience for the students both as individuals and as a group. During the fall semester, students were asked to examine key issues in commercialization and to develop new ideas related to their assigned projects. In the spring, students are tasked to test their ideas in action, by participating as active members of the startup companies. This provides students with a truly 360-degree view of the startup and lends additional value to the startup success.

Comments from 2014-15 Innovation Fellows:

“Throughout the fellows program, I've been able to work on a broad range of commercialization, licensing, and intellectual property issues within the Tucson startup community. I'm grateful for this opportunity and all the awesome people I've been able to meet!” - Bijan Anjavi, Acomni Startup Team

“Being an Innovative Student Fellow allowed me to understand the connection between the patent process, science research, and business. Not only did it teach me the process of how to take an idea and create it into something tangible, but it also revealed that there many steps and collaborations that need to happen to fuel innovation. The experience so far has definitely been rewarding and will aid in my career prospects after graduation.” Sandy Anureet Pabla, Synactix Startup Team

Comments from License Managers and Program Leadership:

“I look forward to seeing the Fellows’ impact and enjoy watching them take ahold of this great opportunity to work and expand their mind in the commercialization arena.” – Bob Sleeper, License Manager, Acomni Team

“Brian Herrera has been terrific in his role as an Innovation Fellow. He’s already brought valuable information and insights to the faculty that he’s worked with, and has expressed a true appreciation for what he has learned from them and from us. He’s able to effectively take the lessons you are teaching him, and translating that knowledge into tangible “business intelligence” for the faculty start-up.” – Amy Phillips, Sr. License Manager, Omniscient Team

“The fellows program is a great opportunity for the students to learn from real world startups, and an equally great opportunity for the startups to work with talented students. I’ve been very pleased with Sandy’s work and contribution to the team, and look forward to working with her for the rest of the semester.” –Rakhi Gibbons, Assistant Director, Life Science and Biomedical Licensing; License Manager, Synactix Team.
