FROM INNOVATIONS TO IMPACT

For nearly 15 years, The Ohio State University Business Plan Competition (BPC) has provided teams — including outstanding students from all disciplines — the opportunity to go beyond the classroom and advance their entrepreneurial ideas from concept to market in critical industries.

Through educational workshops, engagement with thought leaders from across the university and coaching from industry professionals and potential investors, teams spend one year designing, refining and pitching the next great idea.

In addition to prize money from the BPC, winning teams have gone on to successfully secure more than $50 million in startup funds for projects that have included:

- Transforming the way cell research and human tissue is grown
- Advancing medical diagnostic technology
- Improving one of the world’s most popular computer accessories

Support of the BPC offers donors the opportunity to help bring innovative ideas to the global marketplace, and to elevate one of the premier experiential learning opportunities at Ohio State.

BY THE NUMBERS:

450: Student teams that have participated in the BPC

75: Business executives who participate as judges, team mentors and coaches each year

$240,000: Cash prizes awarded by the BPC to winning teams since 2001

$1 million: In-kind services provided by corporate partners since 2001

$50 million: Additional start-up funding raised by winning teams

IN THEIR WORDS:

“The Ohio TechAngel Funds view the Business Plan Competition as an outstanding source of curated deal flow, and we have invested in several finalists.”
— John Huston
Founder
Ohio TechAngels Funds

“The Business Plan Competition has a long history of giving student entrepreneurs their start to business and entrepreneurship. It is energizing to see the students’ plans and the support from faculty and successful business mentors from across the Columbus area.”
— John Bair
Former CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Pinnacle Data Systems, Inc.
ADVANCING REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nanofiber Solutions, winner of the 2009 BPC, is helping to revolutionize regenerative medicine by creating fibers that are 1/100th the diameter of a human hair for use in the production of artificial human tissue. Nanofiber Solutions collaborated with Harvard Bioscience to produce the first U.S.-made synthetic trachea created from nanofibers for use in transplant operations. Recently, the company partnered with Nationwide Children’s Hospital to help treat infants born with damaged digestive tracts.

“The BPC gave us our start and the resources to support us in the early months. Without it we may not have been able to build our company.” — Ross Kayuha, CEO, Nanofiber Solutions

IMPROVING TOOLS FOR DIAGNOSIS

Core Quantum Technologies won the 2012 BPC with plans for next-generation illumination and detection nanoparticles. The company has since patented the MultiDot, a group of nanoparticle tracking dots used in biomedical research and medical diagnostics that features greater brightness, longevity and stability — making it easier to detect, image or track cellular-level processes and structures. Additional innovations could spark new inventions in areas such as pharmaceuticals, optical devices, solar cells and personal health-test kits.

INNOVATING FOR RETAIL

Fed up with having to replace costly MacBook chargers whose cords wore thin and failed, the team behind Juiceboxx, the 2014 BPC undergraduate-track winner, designed, pitched and is now marketing a protective case that eliminates wear-and-tear. Thus far, the company has raised more than $30,000 from 860 individuals worldwide in less than a month of crowdfunding. Production and distribution of Juiceboxx is scheduled for fall 2014.

“Opportunities like the BPC push you further than you might’ve gone, making sure you understand every step of the process and helping keep sight of your goals.” — Scott Scherpenberg, Industrial Design student, Juiceboxx team member

LEARN MORE:
For additional program details, contact: Nikki K. Modlich, Program Coordinator Center for Entrepreneurship Technology Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Institute modlich.5@osu.edu (614) 247-4695 Or visit: fisher.osu.edu/entrepreneurship