

Innovation Center



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Events

Upcoming Events

Innovation Engine Accelerator

The annual Ohio University Innovation Engine Accelerator is quickly approaching! The Engine Accelerator is a digital media business accelerator that provides seed funding for selected teams over the summer. After the 12-week program, your company will have a market-tested MVP (Minimum Viable Product) and an investor-ready pitch developed to attract follow-on funding.

Now that the application deadline has passed, there could be an opportunity to join one of the Startups as they will be looking to build their products and generate sales. Also, you can become involved as a mentor or guest speaker. Please contact us at accelerator@ohio.edu for more information!

What the Innovation Engine Accelerator stands for, in the words of Dennis Irwin, Dean of Russ College.



"Russ College graduates have never been stereotypical engineering cubicle dwellers. In contrast, a large number of our graduates have historically started their own companies. Our sponsorship of the Innovation Accelerator acknowledges and continues that tradition." - Russ College Dean Dennis Irwin

April 17th Client Networking Luncheon

The Innovation Center holds bimonthly Client Networking Luncheons with a free catered lunch buffet provided. All Innovation Center clients and their employees are welcome! Each event features a brief presentation from an Innovation Center Client Company speaker. Tracy Kitts of NBIA will be speaking at this month's event.

E-mail the Innovation Center at innovation@ohio.edu if you would like to present at the next Luncheon. Please RSVP by April 10!

Business Pitch Competition



Ohio University's Center for Entrepreneurship invites Ohio University students to participate in the 'Business Pitch Competition' on April 11th for the chance to win up to \$500! Register ASAP as the competition includes a pre-pitch workshop.

Sign up today!

Global Student Entrepreneurship Awards

Nominate a high school, college, or university student that owns and runs their own business while in school for the GSEA. They could be recognized nationally and rewarded with cash prizes!

[Learn more here.](#)



Lunch and Learn

Interested in learning more about exporting for your business? Kelly O'Bryant, director of OSU South Centers International Trade Assistant Centers and Pat Perrin, Global Finance Manager for Ohio's Office of Business Services will be speaking at the April 18th lunch and learn. They will provide an overview of the information and resources that can help you start exporting.

Register by contacting twyman@ohio.edu or by calling (740)597-1460

When: April 18th, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: The Innovation Center room 103. 340 West State Street, Athens OH

Recent Events

Innovation Awards Gala

Local Athens entrepreneurs and supporters gathered to celebrate and reflect on the impact innovation has on our community. Of the forty six individuals nominated, eight were honored for their advances in business and technology.

- Francesca Hartop, co-founder of Yost Engineering, Inc. of Portsmouth, was named Entrepreneur of the Year.
- Kelly McCall received the Outstanding Woman in Innovation Award. McCall, is an assistant professor of endocrinology in the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Brad Mitchell of the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative received the Social Innovation Award.
- Geoff and Michelle Greenfield received the Green Innovation Award for establishing Third Sun Solar of Athens.
- Jason Trembly received the Outstanding Faculty Innovation Award for his invention of the Integrated Precipitative Supercritical (IPSC) Process for conversion of flowback/produced water from oil/gas operations into a reusable water product.
- Huiwen Cheng, an Ohio University doctoral student in chemistry, received the Outstanding Student Innovation for developing a new group of safer, gentler NSAIDs for the treatment of pain and inflammation.

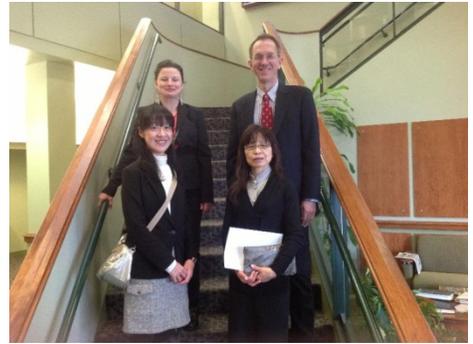
There were two recipients of the Konneker Medal for Commercialization and Entrepreneurship:

- David Scholl, the former president and CEO of Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc.
- John Kopchick the Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar and Professor of Molecular Biology in Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and Edison Biotechnology Institute.

Read more [here](#).

Japanese Visitors

Iwate Prefectural University (IPU) officials visited the Innovation Center recently. As part of a larger Ohio University visit, Harumi Ogawa and Dr. Keiko Chiba wanted to learn about Ohio University's commercialization system including business incubation. Chiba is associate vice president of IPU and a professor in the Life Sciences Department while Ogawa is a professor in the International Cultural Studies Department of IPU. Ohio University and IPU are building a mutually-beneficial economic, research and educational partnership. Our new friends from Japan not only enjoyed learning about the University's entrepreneurial programs; they also took in an Ohio University Men's Basketball Game!



Athensworks Events

Two great events were held at Athensworks this month that support local businesses, entrepreneurs and creativity! Athensworks hosted its second Hack Night, which brought together developers and designers to create an idea then hack it together in one evening. Second, Everything Local was a public showcase of the projects created by local Athenians. The showcase included work from a variety of local artists, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, students, and researchers.

Follow Athensworks on Facebook, at [Facebook.com/Athensworks](https://www.facebook.com/Athensworks) to find out what event will be next!

Young Athens Professional Happy Hour

Young Athens Professionals was founded in 2009 with the purpose of encouraging the young professionals of Athens to meet and network while supporting local businesses. This month's St. Patty's Day themed Y.A.P. happy hour also presented a great opportunity to celebrate the birthdays of co-founders Sara and Kristi! The evening included delicious



food, festively colored beverages, prizes and a fun opportunity to network with the growing community of young Athens professionals.

Find out details for the next YAP happy hour on April 11th by following on Facebook at facebook.com/youngathensprofessionals



News

America Invents Act

The United States Patent System switched to first inventor to file on March 16th, 2013. Under the new FITF system, the first filer of a patent application will be entitled to the patent, as long as the first filer was the inventor himself.

[Learn more here.](#)

Innovation Center Clients Promote Entrepreneurship

Alpha Kappa Psi's Annual Speaker Series is an event that hosts speakers that have a certain entrepreneurial spirit and can educate Ohio University's young leaders. Innovation Center clients, Brandon Logan with CreMedia Productions and Ian Bowman-Henderson with Flare Code Inc. were key speakers at Alpha Kappa Psi's annual speaker series earlier this month. Logan used his experience as a self-starter to encourage students in the business fraternity to explore entrepreneurship as a job option upon graduation.

[Read more here.](#)

Ohio International Market Access Grant for Exporters (IMAGE)

Applications for the 2013 IMAGE program are now being accepted! The Ohio International Market Access Grant for Exporters is a 50 percent reimbursement program designed to offset the costs associated with certain exporting initiatives in an effort to increase exports and create jobs in Ohio by helping small business expand to international markets.

Application deadline: September 30th

Learn more and apply today.

Ecolibrium Solar Reaching New Heights

Ecolibrium has recently added James Huth and Suzanne Sloo to their team. James is a licensed PE with over 20 years of experience and will lead our R&D Department. Suzanne is a solar veteran and will focus on Customer Relations Management and operations support.

If you are interested in a career with Ecolibrium email Careers@ecolibrumsolar.com

Tips & Tricks

Crowdfunding

2012 Innovation Engine Accelerator participants Richard Rodman, Rohan Kruse, and Max Heckel are leading the way for startup success with their second company, 530Funds.com. In an article recently featured by HiVelocity, these entrepreneurs shared insight about crowdfunding alongside other entrepreneurs in the state who are affected by or participate in the crowdfunding industry. Read the article to find out more about how crowdfunding could benefit you and the difficulties with crowdfunding [here](#).

About Us



The **Innovation Center** provides valuable business incubation resources to fuel the economy in Athens, Ohio and the surrounding region. Created in 1983, the Ohio University Innovation Center was the first university-based business incubator in the State of Ohio and the fourth oldest continuously operating incubator in the U.S. The current 36,000 square foot facility, which opened in 2003, is nearing capacity. For availability, [email us](#) or call to set up a tour at 740.593.1818.

Thank you!

Interested in learning more about what the Innovation Center has to offer? Contact us at innovation@ohio.edu.



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Photo: Ben French

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The Innovation Center is a department within the Ohio University Vice President for Research Office. To learn more, visit www.ohio.edu/research.



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