The Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

**ARE YOU A FACULTY MEMBER WHO INVENTED A NEW TECHNOLOGY?**

**GO TO:** Ohio University Technology Transfer Office for patent protection, evaluation of the market for your discovery, and to license to a company.

**NEED FEEDBACK ON YOUR BUSINESS IDEA/WANT TO START YOUR OWN COMPANY?**

**GO TO:**
- TechGROWTH Ohio, a public/private entrepreneurial support program housed at the university's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. It also offers growth grants and pre-seed investment capital for start-up companies, plus business coaches and staffing assistance.
- Start-up Weekend, a 48-hour business pitch competition for university and regional entrepreneurs hosted by the Innovation Center, Ohio University's small business incubator.

**NEED ADVANCED FUNDING?**

**GO TO:**
- The Center for Entrepreneurship if you're an Ohio University student. The center offers an “Idea Pitch” competition, hosts a guest lecture series of successful executives, and supports student entrepreneur clubs and networking activities. As of fall 2012, it began offering a major in entrepreneurship to business students and a certificate to non-business students.

**NEED OFFICE OR LABORATORY SPACE?**

**GO TO:**
- The Innovation Center, a 36,000-square-foot facility that offers flexible space, equipment, networking events, and business coaching. The program is led by Jennifer Simon, a seasoned regional economic development professional.

**NEED FEEDBACK ON YOUR BUSINESS IDEA/WANT TO START YOUR OWN COMPANY?**

**GO TO:**
- Adena Ventures, founded by Ohio University alumnus and Athens native David Wilhelm, who has forged a successful career in national politics and venture capital funding for underserved regions of the country, and Lynn Gellerman, who now serves as the executive director of TechGROWTH Ohio and the Center for Entrepreneurship at Ohio University.

**NEED SEED MONEY?**

**GO TO:**
- Athenian Venture Partners, a venture capital firm headquartered in Athens, Ohio, started with an investment from the Ohio University Foundation. It focuses on investments in information technology and healthcare firms. Its Ohio VP fund, launched in 2003, was recently ranked tops in the nation for high returns on investment.

**NEED FURTHER INVESTMENT? BUSINESS COACHES? HELP FINDING STAFF?**

**GO TO:**
- East Central Ohio Tech Angel Fund (ECOTAF) With 27 investors, it’s one of the largest rural focused investment funds in the country.