

# **New Jersey Center for Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship**

## **Mission**

*To foster a community of distinction for entrepreneurship by providing extraordinary education, creating research with impact, and building partnerships with academic institutions, economic development agencies, and industry.*

## **Contact Information**

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## **About the Center**

The goal of the New Jersey Center for Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship of DeVry University is to create and manage cross-campus educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate and executive levels. The Center is home to a number of highly regarded faculty in the field of management. In conjunction with DeVry University's College of Business and Management and its Keller Graduate School of Management, the Center will work extensively with both large and small companies in New Jersey, collaborate with other universities as well as a number of economic development programs in furthering entrepreneurial activities. The Center will provide sponsorship for faculty research, additional educational opportunities for students, and outreach programs to high schools, economic development agencies and companies. Areas of focus for the Center include: Educational Programs, Research, Lecture Series, Entrepreneurship Center Partnership, and Entrepreneurship Award and Recognition.

For more information about the Center, please contact Dean Forough Ghahramani by email at [fghahramani@devry.edu](mailto:fghahramani@devry.edu) or by phone at 732-729-3812.

## **Lecture Series**

Discussion of current business issues and interaction with experts in the field are key elements of the learning process at DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management. The New Jersey Center for Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship's Lecture Series will feature Keller Graduate School of Management faculty and business leaders who will address current, diverse issues that are relevant to academicians and business practitioners.

The Executive Insights program will bring high-profile business leaders and entrepreneurs to the University to connect with students, faculty, and administrators. Guests will be asked how they would like to spend their time at the University. A personalized itinerary will be developed that includes a moderated discussion in a lecture room.

## **Research with Impact**

Research with impact is represented in academic work and publications that generate discovery of new ways to look at the familiar, identify phenomena that have previously gone unnoticed, articulate uncharted territory, and clarify interesting, unresolved, or inadequately addressed issues in and across business and technology disciplines. The New Jersey Center for Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship's role will be to support and encourage research efforts that will make a difference in the university and in society. Faculty members associated with the Center represent an impressive cross-section of DeVry University and Keller Graduate School of Management scholars. These individuals are dedicated to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship and to conducting research in business, management, and technology. The Center's research division's initiatives will include offering research developmental workshops, peer research review sessions, and a faculty research brown bag series.

## Educational Programs

Enhanced educational opportunities at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive level will be provided through the Center. The Center will offer resources for developing and administering educational programs to the community outside of DeVry including executive level programs. Planned initiatives are summarized below.

*“Enhanced educational opportunities at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive level ...”*

- **Entrepreneurship and Technology Initiatives** will provide educational and experiential opportunities to help students learn and experiment with commercializing and patenting of ideas.
- **Entrepreneurship Education** will offer a suite of programs that bring business leaders together from a variety of backgrounds in a learning environment that is rigorous, collaborative, and engaging. These programs will be targeted towards:
  - Executives looking to gain a competitive edge in an increasingly competitive global environment
  - Business professionals looking for career transitions
  - Emerging leaders looking to hone specific skills
- **Mentoring and Student Initiatives** will provide students interested in developing creative solutions to the problems and challenges facing today's business leaders and entrepreneurs the opportunity to participate in special competitions, clubs, internships, and career counseling—or to jump right in and start their own businesses
  - **Executive-in-Residence Program** will sponsor experienced entrepreneurs to teach seminars and mentor teams of students interested in starting their own businesses. Executive-in-Residence may stay for a full academic year.
  - **Entrepreneurial Internships** will help students gain real-world experience through internships with entrepreneurial Keller alumni and local businesses.
  - **Start-Up Challenge Business Plan Competition** will be open to all graduate and undergraduate students at the University. Prizes will be awarded to winning teams. The competition will focus on the entrepreneurial process, as opposed to new venture ideas.
  - **Entrepreneurial Career Counseling** will assist students in determining whether or not they should pursue an entrepreneurial career.
  - **Keller Entrepreneurial Society**, a student group, will invite entrepreneurs, often Keller alumni, to address students on topics such as funding a new business, women and entrepreneurship, and new ventures.

*“... provides students ... opportunity to participate ...”*

## Entrepreneurship Center Partnership

The Entrepreneurship Center Partnership division will promote the diffusion of knowledge, the exchange of ideas, and attention to outreach programs and initiatives that seek to provide an interface between the business community and the research and curricular capabilities and activities of the Center. A major emphasis of this division will be to serve as a resource to large and small companies in New Jersey, and collaborate with other universities as well as a number of economic development programs in furthering entrepreneurial activities in New Jersey. The Center is expected to be more than just a business incubator; it will strive to encourage and inspire undergraduate and graduate students to think boldly and creatively to solve problems and create positive change in the world. The Center will provide student resource and consulting services to New Jersey entrepreneurs.

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## Entrepreneurship Award and Recognition

The Entrepreneurship Award will recognize the spirit of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship that enhances the Center for Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship and Keller Graduate School of Management. An award will be given each year to one Keller faculty member and one Keller student.