

UConn

CONNECTICUT CENTER
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND INNOVATION

**FIVE
YEAR
REPORT**

2018 - 2023*

*THIS REPORT INCLUDES DATA FROM ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19 THROUGH ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

ABOUT CCEI

The Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (**CCEI**), established in 2007, was the first organized center to support entrepreneurial activity at the University of Connecticut. CCEI supports UConn students, faculty, and alumni as they innovate and create solutions to some of the world's greatest problems. We connect students with opportunities to learn and engage in entrepreneurship, and know that these transformative experiences will be a catalyst in building the future they dream of. For alumni, we are here to continue to support their passions and goals no matter where their journey has taken them. For faculty and staff, we help them take their scientific research or professional experiences and determine the market opportunity for commercialization.

While **Entrepreneurship. Starts. Here.** We certainly know it is just one step!

MISSION & VISION

At CCEI we value the strength of community, empowering effective communication, and cultivating purposeful learning amongst entrepreneurs. Ultimately, we inspire a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation across all academic disciplines throughout UConn, to entrepreneurs and businesses across Connecticut, and to our alumni worldwide. We support entrepreneurs from every school/college across UConn and work to engage a diverse population of entrepreneurs.

We strive to build, develop, and connect entrepreneurs to support them on their journey of venture development.

We **build** ventures through various programs that help support ideation, concept development, market and customer validation, business model creation, proof of concept, and initial launch into the market.

We **develop** entrepreneurs to become successful leaders within their organizations and beyond. Through mentorship and guidance, we empower individuals to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and leave a legacy of excellence.

We **connect** entrepreneurs to an extensive network of resources and industry experts to help them launch and grow successful companies. Creating a supportive ecosystem allows for collaboration and strategic partnerships.

IMPACT ON THE CONNECTICUT ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

CCEI is identified as an area of strength by UConn and vital to the state and national economy. CCEI is committed to UConn's Core Values of Innovation, Leadership, Global Engagement, and Diversity. As one of the United States' leading public universities, we benefit from the academic background, strength in numbers, and geographic positioning of the various populations we work with.

CCEI measures successful outcomes from program activity based on number of entrepreneurs engaged, startup teams formed, cohorts facilitated, funding provided to new ventures, follow-on funding generated by these startups, engagement with mentors, and community partners to support the next steps in venture growth.

Over the last five years, CCEI has piloted and launched many new initiatives to support entrepreneurial activity and cultivate ecosystem development. These contributions to the entrepreneurial ecosystem at UConn and across the state is clear in the array of programming that is constantly being innovated and redefined as new technologies emerge and demands for solutions across industries and sectors become evident. It is through these initiatives that CCEI aims to create and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.

HISTORY & MILESTONES (2018-2023)



2018

- Grand opening and celebration of the CCEI Hartford center space
- CCEI launches the Get Seeded program, UConn's first university-wide pitch competition
- CCEI receives a multi-year higher education grant from CTNext to support the launch of the InsurTech Fellows Program



2019

- Grand opening and celebration of the CCEI Storrs center space
- UConn receives its first ranking in the "Top 50 for Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Programs" by the Princeton Review



2020

- CCEI launches Traction to create a virtual program for students with new startup ideas to validate the market potential
- CCEI launches the Entrepreneurship Internship Program, a strategic initiative aimed at placing students in internship opportunities. This initiative responds to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a reduction in corporate internships
- UConn receives its first ranking in the "Top 50 for Graduate Entrepreneurship Programs" by the Princeton Review



2021

- The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) program and the Family Business Program join CCEI
- CCEI expands the Wolff New Venture Competition to consist of a hybrid format to reach a greater audience and to provide additional levels of seed funding for startups
- CCEI hosts the inaugural Get Seeded Demo Day in partnership with the UConn Foundation



2022

- CCEI celebrates its 15th Anniversary with a day-long event in the Hartford space
- CCEI launches BUILD Hartford with generous funding from the Cantor Family



2023

- The first paper written by CCEI about the success of accelerator programs is published in *Entrepreneurship, Education, and Pedagogy*
- UConn is invited to join the National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps Hub Northeast Region
- CCEI prepares to launch The Collaboratory and its first podcast, *Timely Topics*, to formalize entrepreneurial communication training and best practices within CCEI

PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

At CCEI, our main contributions to the overall entrepreneurial ecosystem is executed through programming designed, operated, and resourced by CCEI. These initiatives often start as a pilot program that is designed to meet a specific need over a given period of time, and in some cases, is phased out as goals are met, or redesigned to grow as needs change.

Get Seeded

The Get Seeded program was launched to engage students early in the venture development process by providing a platform for them to showcase their ideas to their peers, receive feedback, and be awarded seed funding. This program has allowed student founders to pitch for funding, as well as network with potential team members needed to help bring their business to the next level.

The program was launched in **2018**, and since has hosted **27 pitch nights** that have resulted in over **300 ideas** being cultivated. Throughout those pitch nights more than **150 team pitched** and received more than **\$90,000 in seed funding**.

Traction

The Traction program was launched to provide support as early state entrepreneurs seek to understand the problem-solution fit for their business ideas. Teams work to understand the markets they are entering and the customers they plan to serve through guided customer discovery efforts. Throughout this program, CCEI aims to empower startup teams, foster an environment where they can iterate on their strategies, and enhance their chances of achieving a successful product-market fit.

This program has been offered in an interactive cohort model twice per year and in 2023 expanded to a full year program to support more entrepreneurs and business ideas. The Traction program was originally launched in **2020**, and since launch date, **six total cohorts** with more than **37 startup teams** and **63 entrepreneurs** were engaged.

Accelerate UConn

The Accelerate UConn program is UConn's National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Corps Site (I-Corps). Its mission is to catalyze entrepreneurial teams whose technology concepts are likely candidates for commercialization. Educational elements of this program share the principles of the I-Corps curriculum on Lean LaunchPad methodology. With the support of Accelerate UConn, teams learn first-hand about entrepreneurship and explore the transition of their ideas, devices, processes or other intellectual activities into the marketplace.

This program is offered through three different phases and four total cohorts per year. As it was launched in **2015**, **22 cohorts** have been completed with a total of **\$585,000 in seed funding** awarded. In addition, **197 startup teams** have participated since launch date, including more than **530 entrepreneurs**.

Summer Fellowship

The Summer Fellowship program is UConn's startup accelerator and is an immersive entrepreneurial experience open to UConn students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This program takes place over eight weeks, where participants develop the skills needed to bring new products, services, and technologies to market. Each team receives one-on-one coaching and mentorship from industry experts and experienced entrepreneurs, as well as pro bono legal, accounting, and design services.

This is CCEI's flagship program and has prepared startups to launch their company, generate revenue, raise funding (grants, investments, etc.), and be accepted into next step opportunities. Startups are typically ready to earn first revenue upon entry into the program or shortly after graduating.

Since the program's launch in **2016**, **eight cohorts** with a total of **80 startup teams** have graduated, with **\$1.2 million dollars awarded** in seed funding.

Wolff New Venture Competition

The Wolff New Venture Competition features live pitches from UConn's top startups. The legwork for the competition begins in March, where ten startups are selected from a large applicant pool to participate in CCEI's Summer Fellowship program.

At the conclusion of this eight-week accelerator, teams present their final pitches to a panel of judges and the top five startups are selected to compete in the Wolff New Venture Competition; chosen on a basis of venture viability and value-added to the market. A panel of venture experts decides which team deserves the Wolff New Venture Prize and more than **\$50,000 in funding** is awarded to participants. Since Summer Fellowship's initial launch in **2016**, **seven pitch events** have been hosted by CCEI. The pitch events include **35 total startup teams**, with **\$175,000 awarded** in seed funding.

xCITE: Women in Entrepreneurship Network

Originally established as a day-long conference for "Connecticut Women in Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship," xCITE has since evolved into much more. This program is now dedicated to bringing together women entrepreneurs and organizations from Connecticut and beyond by increasing the frequency of networking and mentoring opportunities. The result of this shift is a reengineered program with an emphasis on building a committed network of women entrepreneurs that will engage participants year-round. Since program launch in **2017**, well **over 900 women** and those who support women entrepreneurs have been engaged.

BUILD Hartford

The BUILD Hartford program offers entrepreneurial education and real-world applications for students to create innovative projects that aid in the development of Hartford. The program provides tools for students to gain knowledge about the city's entrepreneurial ecosystem, analyze data, and communicate ideas to stakeholders. Since program launch in **2022**, there have been **3 completed cohorts** totaling **49 registered students and student interns**.

Timely Topics

Timely Topics is a podcast-style program featuring panels of speakers, workshops to engage entrepreneurs, and fireside chats with successful business leaders. The sessions aim to provide ongoing opportunities and connections for students, faculty, and alumni to learn, grow, and network. We have hosted **41 sessions** with more than **40 guest speakers** and over **500 attendees** participated.

Entrepreneurship Internship Program

UConn's Entrepreneurship Internship Program allows students to connect to internal and external internship opportunities relevant to entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation. These include opportunities to work with new and emerging startup companies, established companies, or large corporations. Through a partnership with Handshake, UConn's job listing platform, we offer a diverse range of positions within a variety of industries. Since formally launching the program in **2020**, CCEI has connected **more than 70 students** to internships with startups, and local small and family owned businesses.

Student Ambassador Program

The Student Ambassador Program allows students to aid in the process of recruiting other UConn students to participate in CCEI's programs. They work collaboratively to reach students across campuses through events, social media, and in-class presentations. They are innovative, driven, and encouraging leaders who assist in the growth of CCEI's programs. This program was launched in **2017** and included a total of **28 ambassadors**.

Mentor Network

CCEI relies on the industry expertise and knowledge brought to various programs by our diverse network of mentors. These mentors serve as guest speakers, judges, and panelists for all of our programming. This network includes almost **300 mentors** made up of notable UConn alumni, successful and budding entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and other entrepreneurship organizations.

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV)

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp For Veterans (EBV) program offers experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans. EBV demonstrates the power of entrepreneurship in our communities by fostering a route for job creation and economic vitality. EBV is designed to give practical training in the tools and skills of venture creation and a support structure for graduates of the program.

The EBV program was launched in **2010** and has since completed a total of **12 cohorts** including **253 veteran and caregiver entrepreneurs**. Since inception, **430 jobs** have been created, **187 businesses** have launched, and **\$150 million dollars of revenue** has been generated. Over the last five years, the EBV has graduated **92 veterans** and military spouses. We are proud to have granted these participants **\$34,500 in funding**.

Former UConn School of Business Department Head of Finance and Professor Emeritus Tom O'Brien granted a gift and **matched all donations up to a total of \$100,000**. The EBV was also awarded state funding in FY22, FY23, FY24, and FY25, which further stabilized the program and demonstrated the confidence Connecticut's legislature has in UConn's engagement with the veteran community.

During the spring of 2022, EBV lost its leader, **Michael Zacchea**. Michael's service to this country and to his fellow veterans was truly inspiring and motivated everyone involved in the program to continue to move forward in his honor. He was posthumously elected to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in 2022. ISG **Nicholas Martinelli** officially joined the CCEI team in February of 2023 to manage and lead the program. His experience aligns closely with EBV's mission to provide practical training in the tools of venture creation and the establishment of a support structure for program graduates.

Family Business Program

The UConn Family Business Program helps family businesses adapt and thrive in today's changing economic and business climate. Through business and family-systems programming, it prepares and propels businesses through innovative business strategy, organizational structure, management practices, human resources, leadership development, and succession planning.

The UConn School of Business revamped and re-introduced its Family Business Program in 2018. Working in and for a family business requires a unique understanding of family dynamics and values. In 2018, the program offered the **Family Business Executive Education Program** and the **Family Business Base Camp** as another opportunity for family businesses to engage the UConn resource system. The program engaged students with an undergraduate course in family business and a **Family Business Internship Program** that embedded undergraduates inside family businesses to provide academic intelligence to business decision-makers.

In 2020, the Family Business Program recognized how severely family businesses were disrupted through the economic shock created by the **COVID-19 pandemic** and worked to develop virtual programming to support members of the community. The program has since expanded to year-round panels, workshops, and networking events including partnerships with: Hinckley Allen to present **Legal Lunches**, a virtual legal seminar series; Connecticut Wealth Management to host topic based panels; and Lyman Orchards at their wholesale bakery in New Haven to annually celebrate **Pi(e) Day**.

Verge Consulting Program

Through a partnership with the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (CTSBDC), the Verge Consulting Program allows participants to work directly with Connecticut-based startups and small businesses to help them overcome various business challenges. As a team, these students consult between 8-15 companies in a variety of different industries and life cycles.

Since the program's launch in **2016**, **eight cohorts** have been completed with a total of **50 student consultants**. In some cases, Verge Consultants were hired to work part-time or intern with one of the client companies post-program, and some were hired into full-time roles, including one MBA student being hired as the startup's CEO. In addition, more than **120 businesses** have been supported with more than **\$275,000 of internship funding** provided to those students.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Research Seminar Series

Aiming to advance the understanding of the policies designed to spur entrepreneurship and innovation at a local, regional, national, and international level, this program features monthly seminars. Since **2018, 37 faculty members** have led seminars from **28 academic institutions**, including faculty from Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of Oxford, and beyond.

The Collaboratory*

The Collaboratory envisions a dynamic and inclusive ecosystem where entrepreneurs harness the power of contemporary communication channels to create and share compelling content. The Collaboratory also offers the opportunity for select entrepreneurs and community partners to enhance their communication skills through facilitated training and high level coaching. It aims to foster a vibrant community that empowers and supports entrepreneurs to share their unique stories, exchange ideas, and unlock their full creative potential.

Entrepreneurial Leadership Program*

CCEI has packaged the best of its entrepreneurial programming to provide executives access to curated modules that allow them to learn and develop the value of an entrepreneurial mindset delivered by our team of experts. We capitalize on our experiences of working with our talented network and translate these into valuable lessons for today's business leaders. We offer a variety of sessions, including: "Applying the Values of an Entrepreneurial Mindset (EMP)."

The Founder's Lounge*

In this space, CCEI offers an environment where students can collaborate, create and advertise. We provide the following opportunities to help them take their business to the next level: storage space, display of startup logo, ample room for co-founders to meet and work on prototypes, an opportunity to reserve a private meeting, etc. Each semester five total startup teams will be accepted into the incubator space.

Biomedical Entrepreneurship**

As part of this initiative, CCEI sponsored a multi-disciplinary course in biomedical entrepreneurship, targeting graduate students and honors/advanced undergraduates from across UConn with the purpose of training them to be life science entrepreneurs. This course offered a comprehensive overview of elements involved in identifying clinical needs and elements for commercialization of biomedical-based research and development.

The course was launched in **2015** and included **six cohorts**. Since inception, more than **100 students** have engaged in the course. With other offerings of Healthcare and Nursing Innovation programs at UConn, the demand for this course started to decline. Rather than duplicating efforts, CCEI transitioned to supporting the School of Medicine/School of Dental Medicine and the School of Nursing in their innovation courses.

Ignite Hartford**

Ignite Hartford was a pilot program led in partnership with Trinity College and Goodwin University to develop a series of educational workshops and pitch nights for student entrepreneurs. These workshops took advantage of each institution's unique capabilities and taught students essential skills for pitching ideas to investors and starting a business.

UConn **took the lead** on this effort, as the University has the experience running programs such as Get Seeded. The pilot program was successful and showcased new opportunities for institutions of higher education to collaborate on programming.

Business Consulting Accelerator**

The Business Consulting Accelerator program is designed to provide entrepreneurial-minded students with the support and knowledge needed to successfully launch their own business consulting firms. The program fosters an environment that focuses on experiential learning, peer-to-peer mentorship, and individual skill development. The pilot program launched in **2022** and consisted of **one** cohort.

InsurTech Initiative**

The InsurTech Initiative kicked off at UConn in partnership with the Hartford InsurTech Hub as the first cohort of their international startup accelerator was launched. Over the course of three years, **32 InsurTech startups**, chosen by Startupbootcamp, came to Hartford to participate in the Hartford InsurTech Hub.

CCEI supported this engagement by launching a multidisciplinary InsurTech Venturing course, which analyzed the traditional insurance model versus the innovations InsurTech brings to the table. Students learned how InsurTech companies finance and test their business models, and consider how to use cutting-edge technology without creating dangerous cybersecurity risks.

In Spring 2019, CCEI launched a vibrant InsurTech Fellows Program where students were paired with these startups as part of an experiential learning course, were provided with mentors in the industry, and were offered access to professional networking events.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hartford InsurTech Hub wound down their in-person accelerator program. CCEI built a partnership with Nassau Re/Imagine, an InsurTech incubator program in Hartford, to continue to offer great programming for students. CCEI operated this program in part with funding from CTNext, the University of Hartford, and Nassau Re/Imagine through the end of the 2022-23 academic year. With the successful launch of the MS FinTech Program, InsurTech activities were better aligned with this new academic offering and have been transitioned into that program.

A total of **\$360,000** in funding has been raised to run this initiative, with more than **50 startups** and **130 students** participated. In addition, a more than 100 mentors and guest speakers have been engaged in the program.

*New programs that launched in 2023

**Programs that have been phased out of CCEI or are currently not operating

COLLABORATIONS

CCEI supports existing programming and contributes to ongoing collaborations with ecosystem partners within UConn and across Connecticut. The activities below outline programs in which CCEI offered direct value to the initiative.

Launc[H] (Launc[H] is the driving force behind the development of Hartford's innovation ecosystem. Since 2017, CCEI's Michelle Cote has been leading the effort to identify challenges for companies and work to broker public-private investments that address them. During this time, 102 companies have been created with support from Launc[H], and 347 companies have scaled up. In addition, \$42,657,325 of increased capital investments have been secured by entrepreneurs in Launc[H]-supported programs. In total from this reporting period, 919 entrepreneur events have been supported, 215,624 individuals participated in Launc[H]-funded events, and 13,317 mentoring hours have been allocated to entrepreneurs in programs funded by Launc[H]. In April of 2023, Launc[H] organized Hartford's 2nd Annual "AI Day," bringing together members of the academic and professional community to discuss advances in artificial intelligence, applications in the business environment, opportunities for emerging talent, and ethical questions surrounding implementation. CCEI and the UConn School of Business played a critical role as both a sponsor, and co-organizer as a total of 180 members of the local community took part.)

University Pop-up Course (This 1-credit pop-up course is a collaboration between all entrepreneurship faculty at UConn to bring a broad perspective of entrepreneurship to students who enroll. The course introduces students to entrepreneurship as a way to create value and exposes them to qualities of effective entrepreneurs. The course also introduces students to resources at UConn to continue their study and development in understanding whether and how they might pursue entrepreneurship in their careers.)

UConn Women: Changing the Game Podcast (A podcast series amplifying UConn women who are breaking down barriers and closing the gender gap, presented by UConn Women & Philanthropy. Jennifer Mathieu hosted entrepreneur and author Nova Lorraine '95 (CLAS) '97 MA in episode 7; and Rory McGloin hosted entrepreneur and media founder Teresa Dufour CLAS '01 in episode 8.)

School of Engineering Senior Design Project (A two-semester course required for all School of Engineering seniors to graduate. Each team of 3-5 seniors is mentored by Engineering faculty collaborating with the sponsor. The students learn how to work collaboratively in a real-world setting, while producing periodic reports on their ideas, strategy, techniques and progress. CCEI sponsored several senior design projects for startups from 2018-2023, including: WickAway, Encapsulate, QRFertile, Land Maverick and SedMed.)

HackUConn (A 20-hour marathon event that aims to bring together UConn undergraduate innovators across all majors and industry experts for a non-stop, fast-paced innovation competition. Students form groups at the start of the event and combine their technical skills and competencies with the resources provided such as hacking supplies, 3D printers, laser cutters, and mentorship.)

Experience Innovation Expo (In 2018, the Werth Institute, along with participating members, launched the first Experience Innovation Expo, which is an opportunity for UConn students to discover the wide range of programs, resources, and activities facilitating entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity at the university. It is an experiential venue where students will have hands on opportunities to explore what's available to them.)

High Value Talent Retreat (A day-long training program that takes place in the fall and spring each year and includes seminars and workshops where participants explore product-market fit and a wider business model for their technologies. Faculty receive targeted training modules to help attract and retain high-value researchers and were encouraged to engage in Connecticut's growing entrepreneurship ecosystem. The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of successful ventures coming out of universities in the state; launch new products and/or business lines with corporate partners; attract investment and partnership deals for these startups and products; and improve the entrepreneurial ecosystems at these institutions to better attract and retain researchers.)

Women's Entrepreneurship Week (An internationally recognized week where universities globally share events and programming to celebrate women entrepreneurs. CCEI hosts an annual event, workshop, or speaker series in celebration of this week, fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment that empowers and highlights the achievements of women in the entrepreneurial landscape. This week serves as a powerful platform for networking, mentorship, and the exchange of innovative ideas, encouraging the growth and success of women-led businesses around the world.)

The TIP Internship Program (CCEI supports the annual TIP Internship Program, which provides UConn students with full-time summer internships with one of the over 40 startup companies in UConn's Technology Incubation Program. This internship program gives students the opportunity to experience working with a startup company and allows students to engage in entrepreneurship without having to form their own venture.)

The Jackson Laboratory Healthcare Forum (An independent, nonprofit biomedical research institution that seeks to understand the human organism in all its biological and genomic complexity. CCEI sponsored the annual JAX Healthcare Forum and sent 20 undergraduate and graduate students to attend each year.)

Digital Health CT (A digital health accelerator run by Startupbootcamp that began its inaugural cohort in Hartford. 10 chosen startups, selected from hundreds by a selection committee, exhibit diverse ranges of health care technologies. The three-month accelerator program gives teams the support, resources, and industry and investor connections they need to help grow their businesses. Along with support, the teams also gain access to a range of partners, mentors, and investors from across the accelerator's global network. Two of these startups originated from CCEI, and CCEI Executive Director Jennifer Mathieu served on the founding board from 2018-2021.)

PUBLICATIONS

McGloin, R., Saxton**, A., Rao*, A., Hintz, E., Coletti*, A., Hamlin*, E., Turner*, M., & **Mathieu, J.** (2023, June). Examining the importance of developing entrepreneurial communication skills in accelerator Programs: A focus group based approach. *Entrepreneurship, Education, and Pedagogy*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/25151274231183382>

Coletti*, A., **McGloin, R.**, Martin, K., Hamlin*, E., & Turner*, M. (2023, June). Examining oral communication skills in communication training programs for STEM professionals: A systematic quantitative literature review. *Science Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10755470231202773>

Denes, A., **McGloin, R.**, Hamlin*, E., Speer, A. C., Coletti*, A., & Guest*, C. (2023, June). Promoting peer connection in online courses: Exploring the effect of media richness on presence and social connection. *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1475939X.2023.2224347>

McGloin, R., Coletti*, A., & Hamlin*, E. (2023). Conceptualizing and operationalizing a value of communication scale for use in training and development applications. *Communication Center Journal*, 9(1), 1-33.

Dutta, S., **Folta, T.J.**, & Rodrigues, J. (2022, March). Does government fund the best entrepreneurial ventures? The case of the Small Business Innovation Research Program. *Academy of Management Discovery*, 8(1): 103-138. <https://doi.org/10.5465/amd.2019.0078>

Dutta, S., Rodrigues, J., **Folta, T.J.**. (2022, Sept). Does NIH select the right healthcare ventures through the SBIR grant program. *The Journal of Technology Transfer*, In Press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10961-022-09964-8>

Coletti*, A., **McGloin, R.**, Hamlin*, E., & Oeldorf-Hirsch (2022). Science communication on social media: Examining cross-platform behavioral engagement. *Journal of Social Media in Society*, 11(2), 236-263.

Dickler, T., **Folta, T.J.**, Santalo, J., & Giarratana, M. The value of flexibility in multi-business firms. *Strategic Management Journal*, 2022, 43(12): 2602-2628. <https://doi.org/10.1002/smj.3434>

Ed. Griffin, Ricky, & **Folta, T.J.**. Resource Redeployment. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Management*. New York: Oxford University Press, August 2021.

Guest, C., & **McGloin, R.** (2021). The Future of Fundraising: Motivations for Participating in Facebook Fundraisers and Implications of Social Capital. *Journal of Social Media & Society*, 10(1), 1-21.

Sohl, T., & **Folta, T.J.**. Market exit and the potential for resource redeployment: Evidence from the global retail sector. *Strategic Management Journal*, 42(2021), 12: 2273-2293. <https://doi.org/10.1002/smj.3285>

Sohl, T., & **Folta, T.J.**. Declining markets, resource specificity, and redeployment decisions. *Strategic Management Review*, Vol. 2 (2021): No. 2, pp 391-412. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/111.00000033>

Dickler, T., & **Folta, T.J.**. Identifying internal markets for resource redeployment. *Strategic Management Journal*, 41(2020): 2341-2371. <https://doi.org/10.1002/smj.3205>

McGloin, R., & Coletti*, A. (2019). Changing the channel from face to face to digital space: Framing the foundations of video based presentation and meeting channels. *Communication Center Journal*.

Rocha, V., van Praag, M., **Folta, T.J.**, & Carneiro, A. Endogeneity in strategy-performance analysis: An application to initial human capital strategy and new venture performance. *Organizational Research Methods*, 22(2019)3: 740-764.

McGillicuddy*, K., & **McGloin, R.** (2018). "Should I use it?" Assessing the value of online supplemental course materials and their influence on student performance. *Technology, Pedagogy, and Education*, 27(3), 327-337. doi: 10.1080/1475939X.2018.1448298

Lee, J.M., **Folta, T.J.**, & Park, J.C.. CEO career horizon, corporate governance, and real options: The role of economic short-termism. *Strategic Management Journal*, 39(2018): 2703-2725.

*UConn Graduate Student

**UConn Undergraduate Student

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers (GCEC) Conference

- **2023:** Dallas, TX
 - Presented “Utilizing The Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile To Help Develop Start-Up Teams & Promote Individual Growth Related To Accelerator Participation” with **Rory McGloin & Jennifer Mathieu**
 - Presented “From Influence To Impact: A Case Study on Content Creation As A Marketing Tool” with **Alycia Chrosniak & Kate Savinelli**
 - Presented “Developing The Next Generation: Implementing A Student Ambassador Program Within Your Entrepreneurship Center” with **Michaela Hartl & Rachel Ayers**
 - **Jennifer Mathieu** served on Executive Advisory Board, was selected as Chair of the Membership Committee, and served on the Award Selection Committee and the Session Selection Committee
 - **Alycia Chrosniak & Rachel Borden** served on the Session Selection Committee
- **2022:** Las Vegas, NV
 - Presented “YOU” As an Entrepreneur: Integrating Personal Development into Entrepreneurship Curriculum” with **Jennifer Mathieu & Rory McGloin**
 - Presented ““BUILD’ing Community Based Entrepreneurship: Examining a Community Centered Approach to Entrepreneurship Education and Providing a Blueprint for Future Programs” with **Michaela Hartl, Jennifer Mathieu, Rory McGloin & Alycia Chrosniak**
 - Presented “Communication at the Center? A Qualitative Investigation into the Value of Business Communication Training and Development within Entrepreneurial Acceleration Centers” with **Rory McGloin, Jennifer Mathieu**, and others
 - **Jennifer Mathieu** invited to join Executive Advisory Board and served on the Award Selection Committee and the Session Selection Committee
- **2021:** Virtual (Attended)
- **2020:** Virtual (Attended)
- **2018:** Chicago, IL (Attended)

South by Southwest (SXSW)

- **2023:** Austin, TX (Attended)
- **2022:** Austin, TX (Attended)

Yale Innovation Summit

- **2023:** New Haven, CT (Attended)

Deshpande Symposium

- **2019:** Lowell, MA (Attended)

Price-Babson Symposium for Entrepreneurship Educators

- **2019:** Wellesley, MA (Attended)
- **2018:** Wellesley, MA (Attended)

Geno Auriemma Leadership Conference

- **2018:** Uncasville, CT (Attended)

Section School

- **2023:** Virtual (Attended)
- **2022:** Virtual (Attended)

National Association of Communication Centers

- **2019:** Greensboro, NC
 - Presented “Proposing a Value of Communication Scale” with **Rory McGloin** and others

National Communication Association

- **2022:** New Orleans, LA
 - Presented “Training and development panel: Curious about consulting? Professional perspectives on getting started as a (communication) consultant” with **Rory McGloin** and others
 - Presented “Examining oral communication skills in communication training programs for STEM professionals: A systematic quantitative literature review” with **Rory McGloin** and others
 - Received “Top Panel Award” in the Training and Development Division
 - Received “Top Paper Award” in the Training and Development Division
- **2021:** Seattle, WA
 - Presented “Required to work from home: Digital communication channels during the Covid-19 pandemic” with **Rory McGloin** and others
 - Presented “Science communication on social media: Examining cross-platform behavioral engagement” with **Rory McGloin** and others
- **2020:** Indianapolis, IN
 - Presented “Conceptualizing and operationalizing a value of communication scale for use in training and development applications” with **Rory McGloin** and others
- **2019:** Baltimore, MD
 - Presented “Digital Presentation Best Practices” with **Rory McGloin**

Association for Business Communication

- **2022:** Tampa Bay, FL
 - Presented “A Systematic quantitative literature review examining contemporary communication training and development methods” with **Rory McGloin** and others
 - Presented “The Problem with Entrepreneurship for MBA programs and their students” with **Rory McGloin & Jennifer Mathieu**

PMBA/OMBA Virtual Conference

- **2021:** (Virtual)
 - Presented “Empowering the entrepreneurial mindset through experiential learning” with **Rory McGloin & Jennifer Mathieu**

CORE TEAM



Jennifer Mathieu

Executive Director



Rory McGloin, Ph.D.

*Associate Director of
Communication & Research*



Alycia Chrosniak

*Assistant Director, Brand and
Venture Development*



Nicholas Martinelli

Program Manager



Rachel Borden

*Business Operations
Manager*



Mehgan Williams

Program Coordinator



Michaela Hartl

*Engagement & Outreach
Coordinator*



Kate Savinelli

*Marketing & Database
Assistant*



Michelle Cote

*Lead Instructor & Director of
Launc[H]*



Rachel Ayers

Program Assistant



Alex Bridgemohan*

*Research Associate &
Collaboratory Producer*

PREVIOUS FACULTY & STAFF MEMBERS:

Michael Zacchea (2009-2021)

Tammy Eldredge (2017-2020)

Chereace Marcellin (2018-2021)

Maureen Cappetto (2019-2022)

Mary Keenan (2020-2021)

Jordan Domkowski (2021-2022)

Timothy Folta, Ph.D., Faculty Director

ENTREPRENEURS-IN-RESIDENCE & INSTRUCTORS



Robin Bienemann

Family Business Program



Wayne Bragg

*Summer Fellowship, EBV,
Verge Consulting, Wolff New
Venture Competition*



Matt Connell

BUILD Hartford



Kenneth Goldstein

InsurTech



John Hoffert

Accelerate UConn



Leland Holcomb

Traction, InsurTech



Mike Kalen

InsurTech



Scott Kozak

*Biomedical
Entrepreneurship*



Alice Nichols

Accelerate UConn



Jon Russo

EBV

AFFILIATED FACULTY

George Bollas, Ph.D., Professor, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering; Director, P&W Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering, ENG

Leslie Caromile, Assistant Professor of Cell Biology, Center for Vascular Biology, School of Medicine

Sandra Chafouleas, Ph.D., Professor, NEAG

Ki Chon, Ph.D., Professor, Biomedical Engineering, ENG

Leila Daneshmandi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor In Residence, Biomedical Engineering, ENG

Caroline Dealy, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Dental Medicine & School of Medicine

Dan Fabris, Ph.D., Professor, Distinguished Chair in Chemistry, CLAS

Timothy Folta, Ph.D., Professor, Management & Entrepreneurship, BUS

Wes Hamrick, Ph.D., Post Doc & Fellow, Greenhouse Studios

Jason Henderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CAHNR

Tiffany Kelly, Ph.D., Visiting Professor, NUR; Co-Director, Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center

Liisa Kuhn, Professor, Biomedical Engineering, ENG

Xiuling Lu, Ph.D., Professor, Pharmaceuticals, PHARM

Jon Moore, Instructor In Residence, BUS

Thanh Nguyen, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering, ENG

David Noble, Ph.D., Professor In Residence, The Werth Institute

Linda Pescatello, Ph.D., Professor, Kinesiology, CAHNR

Eugene Pinkhassik, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, CLAS

Amit Savkar, Ph.D., Professor In Residence, Mathematics, CLAS

Tom Scheinfeldt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Digital Media and Design; Director, Greenhouse Studios, SFA

Lawrence Silbart, Ph.D., Professor of Allied Health Sciences, CAHNR

Ali Tamayol, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering, ENG

Xiuchun Tian, Ph.D., Professor, Animal Science, CAHNR

ADVISORY BOARD



Shay Cantner

*Founder & CEO, Elea
2021-Present*



Zack Gould

*Serial Entrepreneur
2021-2022*



Ryan Gresh

*Founder & CEO,
The Feel Good Lab
2021-Present*



Nova Lorraine

*Founder, Raine Magazine
2021-2023*



Jon Russo

*CMO & Founder, B2B Fusion
2023-Present*



Pete Sena

*Founder, Digital Surgeons
2021-Present*



Sam Simons

*President & COO, OEM Controls
2021-Present*



Charlene Walters

*Business Mentor,
Consultant, Author
2021-Present*



Gary Wolff

*President, Wolff Wealth
Advisors
2021-Present*



Greg Wolff

*Financial Planner,
Wolff Financial Group
2021-Present*



Asim Zaheer

*Serial Entrepreneur
& CMO, Glassbox
2021-2023*

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Roy Carpenter*	School of Business	2023-present
Michelle Guerard*	School of Business	2023-present
Ayush Mehta*	School of Business	2023-present
Joseph Roberts*	School of Business	2023-present
Kristina DeMichiel*	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Business	2022-present
Julie Artiaga	School of Business	2022-2023
Christine Attle	School of Business	2022
Raymond Ollivierre	School of Fine Arts	2022
Saige Ouellet	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2022
Michael Stein	School of Engineering	2022
Rachel Ayers	School of Business	2021-2022
Arianna Saxton	Individualized Major	2021-2022
Hritish Bhargava	College of Engineering	2021-2022
Julia Mellen	School of Fine Arts	2021-2022
Hannah Resnick	School of Business	2021-2022
Niki Zheng	School of Social Work	2022
Alisha Mohamed	School of Business	2022
Adam Mayne	School of Business	2020
Van Hoang	School of Business	2019-2021
Chloe Son	School of Business	2019-2021
Madeleine Adeline	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2019-2020
Alexander Grant	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2018-2022
Noah Sobel-Pressman	School of Business	2018-2021
Liza Mathew	School of Business	2018-2021
Michaela Hartl	School of Business	2018-2020
Carson Stifel	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2018
Alyssa Delaubell	School of Business	2017-2019
Jake Tisdale	School of Business	2017-2019

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

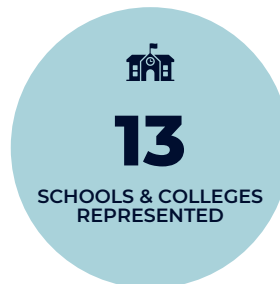
Udith Ashok	School of Business	2021-2022
Taken Fatima	School of Business	2021-2022
Raghav Shekhar	School of Business	2020-2021
Utkarsh Gupta	School of Business	2019-2021
Alok Bhatt	School of Business	2020
Donald Pendagast	School of Business	2019-2020
Abimbola Agebebi	School of Business	2018-2019
Murillo Silva	School of Business	2018-2019

*New Ambassadors that were hired in 2023 but didn't start in the program until after the reporting period

MENTORS & GUEST SPEAKERS

Adams, Jeanne	Drozd, Scott	Janiszewski, Chip	Musto-Quick, Christina	Smith, Erika
Adams, Kyle	Dubay, Tom	Jarvie, Thomas	Myers, John	Smith, Meghan
Adamsons, Kari	Ducharme, Lisa	Jaskot, Dan	Myers, Nick	Snyder, Jacqueline
Adeyema, Hanna	Dunn, Alexis	Johnson, Larry	Naeem, Ojala	Socha, Chris
Ahern, Maureen	Duric, Musan	Johnson, Nicole	Napolitano, Grace	Sonatore, David
Almassian, Bijan	Dwire, Philip	Kalinauskas, Ashley	Negoro Jr, Charlie	Souder, David
Amin, Reza	Eliason, Anita	Keating, Ryan	Nelligan, Pat	Spain, Tara
Ansari, Sanah	Erwin, Milena	Kenney, CJ	Nemeth, Matt	Spangenberg, Rob
Avdic, Elvis	Farmer, Will	Kerzner, Matthew	Noble, David	Spurling, Mark
Barger, Jim	Fasi, David	Kirber, Greg	Norton, Jon	Srinivasan, Narasimhan
Belding, Nicole	Ferris, Bruce	Kitz, Marc	Novin, Ashkan	St. Germain, Lauren
Belek, John	Figueiredo, Donna	Kollmeyer, Rick	O'Marra, Lynn	Staron, Lisa
Bergeron, Joseph	Fitzpatrick, Kyle	Kroll, Marc	Obiocha, Oneyka	Stephenson, Brittany
Binder, Eddie	Flynn, Gregory	Krupski, Tim	Ornelas-Sanchez, Lisa	Steve, Farber
Bittner, Jason	Fox, Misty	Kumiega, Bonnie	Otrin, Jason	Stone, Rob
Bloom, Travis	Frank, Alex	Lallier, Gregg	Ouderkirk, James	Storale, Michael
Bodell, Donald	Fryer, Jeff	Lamour, Jeff	Overmyer-Velázquez, Mark	Strasburger, Lee
Bokron, Nicholas	Fybish, Asaf	Lanham, Donald	Paciorek, Michael	Strong, Jane
Brand, Rache	Gale, Rory	Lanzit, Steve	Palifka, Bill	Sullivan, Kailee
Briere, Danny	Galletta, Elizabeth	Laul, Sahil	Partridge, Laila	T. Broomer, Samuel
Brighenti, Capri	Gamble, Scott	Laul, Sameer	Pasquale, Georgette	Taitel, Elijah
Bronen, Jeremy	Gangemi, Anthony	LeBlanc, Dawn	Pendagast, Donald	Taylor, Hannah
Bronin, Luke	Gehrig, Julie	Lehman, Adam	Pilcavage, Joe	Thomas, Stephanie
Browne, Stacey	Gemmell, Brooke	Leite, Mario	Pinto, Blake	Thompson, Kevin
Bruno, Dave	Ghaddar, Sami	Lim, Edward	Pita, Kim	Tirea, Don
Bzdyra, Jim	Gilson, Lucy	Lombardi, Steve	Polito, Robert	Underwood, Mark
Callahan, Alyssa	Gilson, Paul	Longley, Scott	Pollack, Jeremy	Varrone, Jeffrey
Cantner, Shay	Gionfriddo, Julie	Lorenzen, Tyler	Polo, Carianne	Wade III, Marcellus A.
Cantor, Michael	Goddard, William	Lorraine, Noca	Price, Nan	Wagner, Nick
Cantor, Shari	Goggins, Peter	Lue, Jordan	Puorro, Debra	Wagner, Nicole
Capobianco, Kaitlin	Goldstein, Dahna	Lyman, John	Rad, Armin	Waldman, Reid
Carbray, Matthew	Gomez, Leslie	MacArthur, John	Reynolds, Jim	Walters, Charlene
Carey, Tom	Gould, Zack	Mackin, Andy	Rhoads, John	Warren, Brenda
Carl, Maria	Grandle, Trevor	Macko, Lexie	Riley, Matthew	Wenzel, Brian
Carnelli, Dennis	Greco, Jordan	Macomber, Lily	Rocha, Kathy	Whitford, Denise
Castineiras, George	Gresh, Ryan	Maerz, Beth	Rockefeller, Timothy	Whittemore, Edward
Chavlovich, Matt	Guerrero, Victoria	Maher, Nicki	Rodrigues, Adam	Wilcox, Justin
Coates, Jayme	Guglielmo, Adrian	Malkin Daniels, Shannon	Rogers, Michael	Wiles, Ben
Cohen, Josh	Halberg, Adam	Malloy, Mike	Rosow, Eric	Williams, Janoye
Coles, Ryan	Hamilton, Alissa	Manca, Anthony	Roth, Doug	Williams, Joseph
Collins, Christin	Harburger, David	Manney, Erica	Roy, Aaron	Winter, Jake
Cometti, Mario	Harmon, John	Matous, Geoff	Russo, Jon	Wisenski, Mary
Conley, Chris	Harris, Steve	McCarty, Daniel	Salek, John	Wolff, Gary
Cote, Brian	Hay, Emily	McIntyre, JayR	Santiago, Ari	Wolff, Greg
Cote, Mike	Hayes, Christopher	McKee, Constance	Satornino, Cinthia	Wood, Emily
Covello, Diane	Heiden, Christian	McMahon, Dan	Savage, Daniel	Yakovich, Julia
Cremins, Matt	Hiering, Lisa	McMurray, Mac	Savkar, Amit	Yale, Emily
Cruz, Jose	Hill, Elizabeth	Melander, Matthew	Schweizer, Travis	Yanaros, Al
Dapo, Lawrence	Horrigan, Conor	Melonson, Melissa	Scully, Kate	Young, Fred
Davis, Delanea	Horrigan, Denis	Melville, Nicole	Segar, Hayley	Young, Steve
Del Vecchio, Michael	Howard-Dale, Holly	Menard, Dave	Sena, Pete	Zaccardelli, Lisa
Demo, Mike	Hyde, Kristin	Mendizabal, Susie	Settje, Beth	Zackin, Stacey
Diamond, Meghan	Immer, Reed	Merola, Vincent	Shah, Anurag	Zaheer, Asim
Dodge, Jessica	Ismail, Davina	Middleton, Carly	Sickles, Russell	Zelinger, Robert
Dolce, Tony	Ismail, Gulaid	Milone, Frank	Simmons, Gil	Zick, Claire
Donaldson, Cindy	Jackson, Jim	Moore, Lynn	Singerman, Logan	Zielonka, Rob
Doran, Jennifer	Jacullo, Jean	Mott, Olivia	Sklenar, Joseph	
Doyle, John	Jain, Raina	Muller, Jenn	Slavin, Amanda	
Drake, Christopher	Jalbert, Gary	Murphy, Vincent		

METRICS & DATA



*The 2023 Princeton Review ranked
the University of Connecticut as:*

#34

**FOR TOP UNDERGRADUATE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
PROGRAMS**

#30

**FOR TOP GRADUATE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
PROGRAMS**

#5

**IN THE NORTHEAST REGION
FOR UNDERGRADUATE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDIES**

CT Entrepreneur Awards:

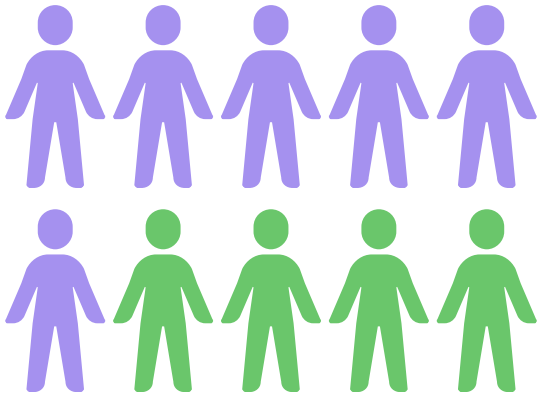
2018: Community Favorite Funding: Accelerate UConn
2018: Community Builder of the Year: Michelle Cote
2019: Community Favorite Program: Accelerate UConn
2019: Community Builder of the Year Honorable Mention: Jennifer Mathieu
2019: Community Promoter of the Year Honorable Mention: CCEI
2020: Community Promoter of the Year: CCEI
2021: Community Builder of the Year Honorable Mention: CCEI
2022: Community Builder of the Year Honorable Mention: CCEI

Princeton Review:

2019: Top 50 Entrepreneurship Programs – Undergraduate
2020: Top 50 Entrepreneurship Programs – Undergraduate & Graduate
2021: Top 50 Entrepreneurship Programs – Undergraduate & Graduate
2022: Top 50 Entrepreneurship Programs – Undergraduate & Graduate
2023: Top 50 Entrepreneurship Programs – Undergraduate & Graduate

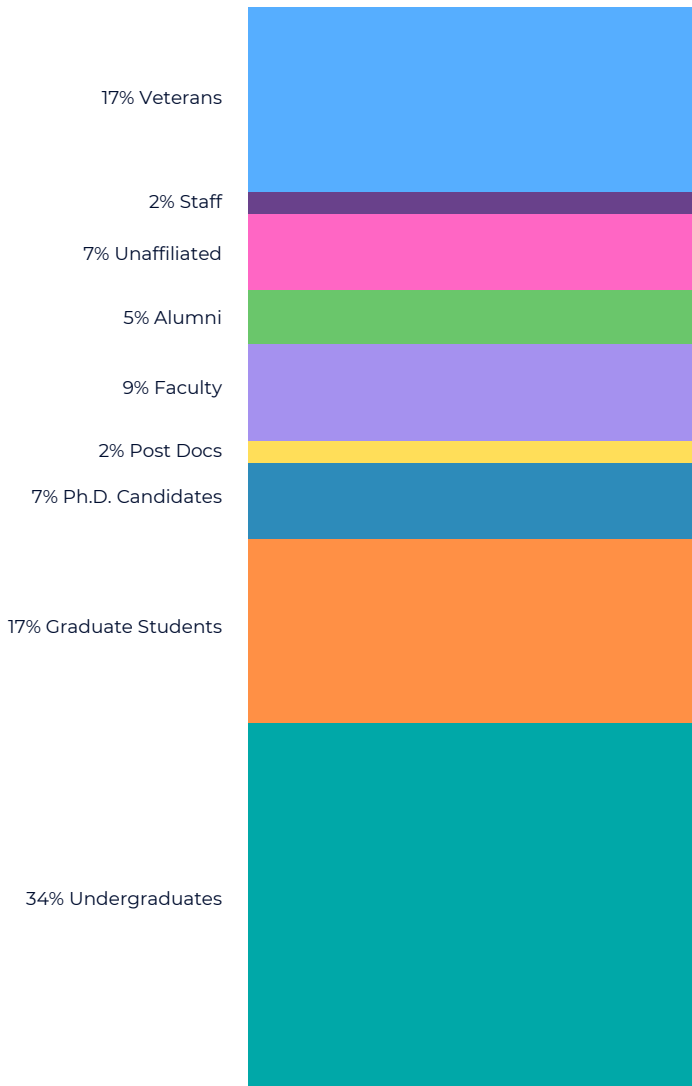
Notable Mentions:

2021: Jennifer Mathieu Hartford Business Journal '40 Under 40'
2022: Michelle Cote Hartford Business Journal 'Top 25 Women in Business'
2023: Rory McGloin Hartford Business Journal '40 Under 40'
2023: Jennifer Mathieu Connecticut Magazine '40 Under 40'

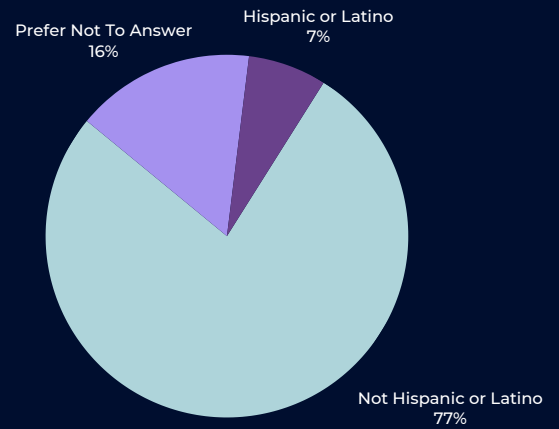


PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:
61% MALE, 35% FEMALE,
4% PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

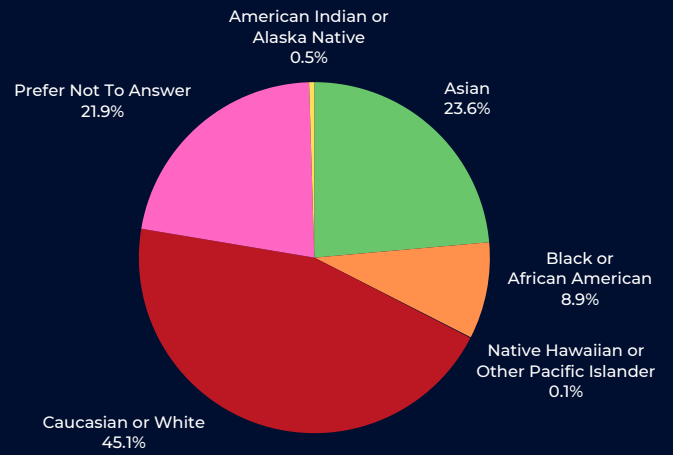
POPULATIONS SERVED



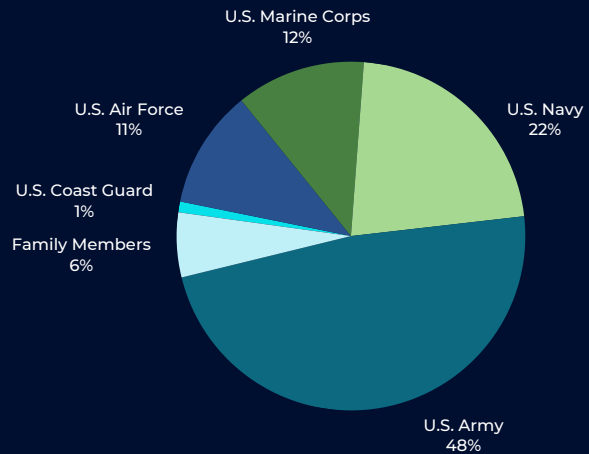
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN



RACE BREAKDOWN

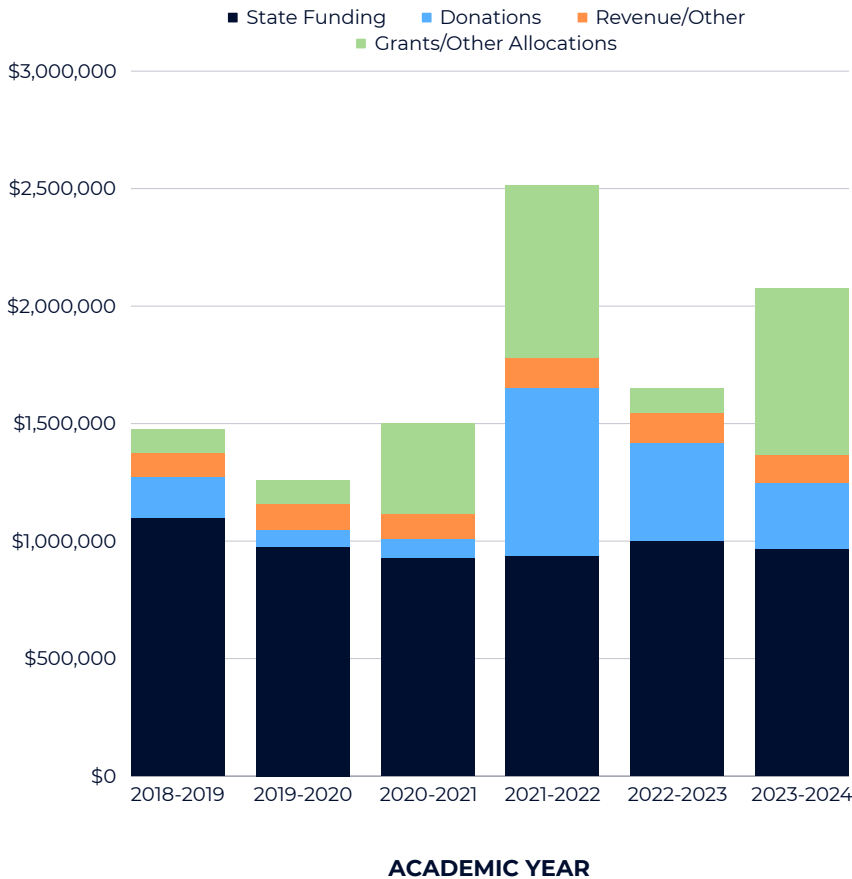


EBV SERVICE BREAKDOWN



FUNDING

FUNDING BY TYPE



\$10.5M
IN FUNDING CONTRIBUTED TO CCEI

\$2.2M
IN GRANT FUNDING & ALLOCATIONS RAISED FOR CCEI INITIATIVES

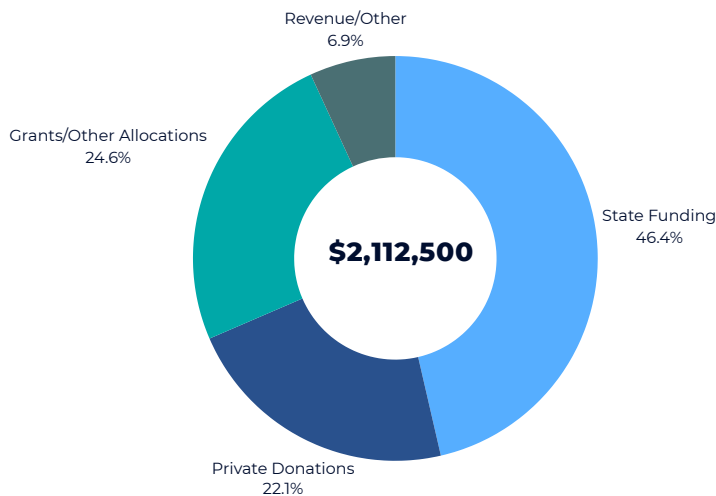
\$2M
IN FUNDS RAISED FOR THE EBV PROGRAM

\$1.4M
PROVIDED IN VENTURE FUNDING

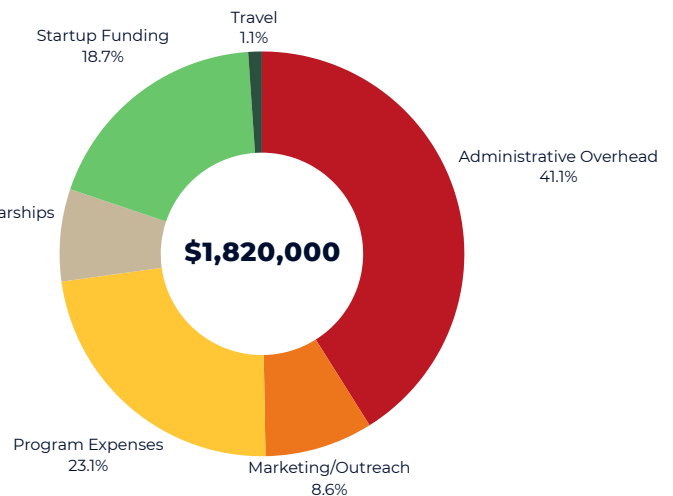
\$790K
PROVIDED IN SCHOLARSHIP & INTERNSHIP FUNDING

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME/EXPENSES

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME



AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENSES



PROGRAM SPONSORS & PARTNERS

At CCEI, we value the importance of our connections, both in our community and across Connecticut's companies, to support an entrepreneurial ecosystem. To fuel our growth and vision, we rely on our committed program sponsors, donors, and partners. With the dedication of these **45 organizations**, CCEI bridges the gap between ideation and startup formation.

APOLLO



CGI



ctnext



DIGITAL HEALTH CT
POWERED BY StartUpbootcamp

digitalsurgeons

FCP EURO



HARTFORD INSURTECH HUB
POWERED BY StartUpbootcamp



KeyBank

LAUNCH

LIBERTY BANK

LOCKHEED MARTIN

LTI
Let's Solve



MURTHA CULLINA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Ridgefield Rotary
81 Years of Service

Santander

AMERICA'S SBDC CONNECTICUT



Simsbury Bank.

Spencer

synchrony



THE MILBANK FOUNDATION

Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT



UConn
SCHOOL OF LAW

UConn
WERTH INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

THOMAS JOHN AND BETTE
WOLFF FAMILY FUND

Z-MEDICA

DONORS

CCEI relies on the generosity of our community to support our initiative through philanthropy. We are grateful for the support of **more than 550 individuals and organizations** over the past five years:

Abitabilo, John	Chavlovich, Matthew	Ferris, Kathleen	Hughes, Robert
Adams, Leanne	Chrosniak, Alycia	Figueiredo, Donna	Hurwitz, Fawn
Adams, Linda	Cirullo, Anne Marie	Figueiredo, Nicolas	Jackson Ryan Construction Services
Aldrich, Alecia	Clapp, Tamara	Fleischer, Elaine	Jaffe, Maizie
Alexander, Kathryn	Clarkson, Carole	Fleischer, William	Jaffe, Ronald
Amenta, Robert	Cochran, Elizabeth	Foley, James	James, Andrew
America Veterans Group	Colegrove, Jeffrey	Foster, Pamela	Jarvis, Alfred
Anderson, Ann	Coles, John	Fox, Karla	Jaynes, William
Appell, Michael	Comcast	Francione, David	Jett, Medina
Arborio, Suzanne	Comolli, Jillian	Francione, Suzanne	Jiang, Jason
Arborio, Timothy	Conboy, Richard	Frechette, Daniel	Joan D. Campbell Living Trust
AT&T	Cook-Walker, Nanci	Frechette, Jolie	Johnson, Stafford
Ba, Sulin	Costa, Christian	Friedman, Lois	Jon Val Hair Salon
Bannon, Mark	Cote, Michelle	Friedman, Michael	Junda, Mary
Barbera, Norma	Coyle, Rita	Frohlich, Marguerite	Kalen, Michael
Barker, Michael	Creal, Yolanda	Fulton, Virginia	Kamphausen, Arminda
Barker, Shelley	Crecco, Marisa	Gaita, Daniel	Kamphausen, Roy
Barnwell, Matthew	Critelli, Jamie	Gaither, Hugh	Karimi, Mateen
Barnwell, Nancy	Cronin, Christina	Galdenzi, Jeffrey	Keefe, Brian
Bars, Michael	Cronin, Eugene	Gascon, Jose	Keefe, Melissa
Bartlett, Diane	Crossen, James	George, Christopher	Kelly, Patrick
Bascom, Margaret	Crossen, Kerry	Gillen, Hank	Kennedy, Aileen
Bates Peggy	Czarnowski, Chris	Glass, Elisa	Kennedy, Joseph
Bates, Laurie	Czuba, Cheryl	Glotzer, Maryann	Kern, Laura
Bates, Ronald	D'Amico, Steve	Glotzer, Paul	Kilburn, Barbara
Beaudoin, Mark	Dale, Eileen	Golden, Deborah	Kilburn, Lance
Beaudoin, Pamela	Dale, Scott	Golden, Michael	Kinnear, Kerrin
Beaulieu, James	Davis, Debra	Goldman, Edward	Knebel, Wendy
Beaulieu, Vanessa	Davis, James	Goldman, Sandra	Knebel, William
Belek, Jonathan	DeBlasis, Joann	Golec, Elizabeth	Kolano, John
Bergeron, Ryan	DeGraw, Allen	Golec, Joseph	Kolano, Maryann
Bickford, Susan	DeJager, Sean	Gotay, Agustin	Kollmeyer, Deborah
Bieling, Laura	Dellapiano, Dottie	Gramling, Cathy	Kollmeyer, Rick
Bieneman, Robin	DeLuca, Mary	Greenblatt, Jonathan	Kowalsky, Jeanne
Bieneman, Tom	DeLuca, Michael	Guerrero, Margaret	Kowalsky, William
Binder, Edward	DesRoches, Gerald	Guerrero, William	Kozak, Scott
Binder, Kathleen	DesRoches, Katrina	Guill, Marshall	Kramer, Susan
Bird, Robert	Dessel, Cynthia	Guy, Hal	Kulla, Mary
Bishop, Daniel	Digiacomio, Luciana	Hague, Michael	LaCroix, Celestine
Blume, Jonathan	Digiacomio, Robert	Hailu, Aklilu	LaCroix, Norman
Boer, Eileen	Dionne, Gregory	Haley, Patty	Lamb, Reinhold
Boone-Adcock, Nathan	Dobbins, Penny	Hall, Claire	Lander, Erina
Borden, Rachel	Domkowski, Jordan	Hall, Stephen	Lander, Joseph
Bradford, Phillip	Douglas, Craig	Halprin, Matthew	Lander, Pamela
Bragg, Kate	Douglas, Marilyn	Harding, Susan	Lander, Stewart
Bragg, Wayne	Dowd, Matthew	Harriott Winograd Fund	Landwehr, Nancy
Brett, John	Doyle, Robert	Hartford Insurance	Laul, Sahil
Brewer, Robert	Driscoll, Michael	Hartl, Michaela	Laul, Sameer
Bronen, Jeremy	Ducharme, Lisa	Hartling, Wendy	Lee, Marianne
Brown, Stacey	Dunbar, Amy	Hartling, William	Lee, Stanley
Brunaugh, Meghan	Duncan, John	Hawkins, Cynthia	Lesko, Barbara
Brussell, Kim	Echelson, Roberta	Hazel, Joseph	Letendre, Elizabeth
Burns-Galdenzi, Lori	Edginton, David	Heath, Fenno	Levy, Ellen
Burrington, Ray	Eisdorfer, Assaf	Heath, Paris	Levy, Toby
Canter, Matthew	Elliott, John	Heise, Judy	Liang, Youzhuo
Cantner, Shay	English, Helen	Hensley, Sheila	Lin, Sharon
Cappetto, Maureen	English, John	Hockaday, Patsy	Littell, Tracie
Cardetti, Fabiana	Eyre, William	Hoffert, John	Logan, Charles
Casavant, Frederick	Fazio, Michael	Hoffmann, James	Logozzo, Jan
Casey, Michael	Fernandes, Christopher	Huckenbeck, Ann	Lombardo, Marcia
Casey, Pamela	Ferrari, Christopher	Huckenbeck, Richard	Lu, Xiuling
Casey, William	Ferraro, Mary	Hudson, Lisa	Luglio, Rose
Catudal, James	Ferris, Bruce	Hughes, Barbara	Luttrell, Dustin

DONORS (CONT.)

MacArthur, John
Maday, Mary
Maglio, Michael
Mahoney, Mary
Mailhoit, Robert
Mancarella, Joseph
Manning, Sean
Mansfield Lions Club
Maric, Charles
Maric, Radenka
Markleski, Craig
Markovits, Grace
Marshall, Kenneth
Marshall, Rachel
Mathieu, Jennifer
Matous, Geoffrey
McCain, David
McCain, Eleanor
McCallum, Clifford
McCann, Roxanne
McDonald, Sean
McKenna, John
McKenna, Karen
McLymont, Howard
McShane, Frank
Meehan, Julie
Meehan, Sean
Melnicoff, Rosalind
Metacommet Post, VFW
Mikan, Maria
Mikan, Matthew
Mills, Robert
Milone, Frank
Milone, Karin
Misto, Jaimie
Misto, Mark
Montgomery, Roosevelt
Montuori, Anthony
Montuori, Teresa
Moore, Lynn
Morneau, Carleen
Mountain Top Services
Moyer, Thomas
Mrazik, Michael
Mueller, Dorothy
Mummert, Gary
Munrett Wolfe, Harriet
Murphy, David
Murphy, Elizabeth
Nacovsky, Kristin
Nair, Suresh
Nair, Vidya
Navin, Sean
Naylor, Suzanne
Nazarov, Amy
Nazarov, Ari
Nebelski, Nichole
Nebelski, Richard
Nee, Maura
Nellenbach, Michele
Nelligan, Patrick
Nemeth, Jean
Nemeth, Marc
Noble, David
Noble, Holly
Noonan, Thomas
Nunnally, Bennie
O'Brien, Thomas
O'Connell, Melanie
O'Connell, Sean
O'Connor, Mary
O'Neal, Ed
Ocampo, Alexandra
Olson, Carly
Orsillo, James
Osborne, Robert
Ossolinski, Andrew
Ossolinski, Julie
Otrin, Dena
Otrin, Jason
Pai, Chaitanya
Pai, Sandhya
Paine's, Inc.
Paredes, Monica
Parete, Nando
Parete, Patricia
Paternoster, Laurie
Paternoster, Michael
Perrin, Adam
Perrin, Alison
Persbacker, Elaine
Peterson Trolle, Christopher
Peterson Trolle, Diann
Pfannenstiel, Andrew
Pfannenstiel, Michele
Philipp, Therese
Philips, Laura
Pierce, Richard
Pierce, Tina
Pilc, Robert
Platoni, Katherine
Potkai, Edward
Potkai, Jamie
Prudential Financial
Quinn, Richard
Rancourt, Gary
Rancourt, Karen
Rancourt, Timothy
Rich, Gale
Rich, Joseph
Rivard, Gail
Roberts, Emmett
Robin, Jeff
Rocha, Kathy
Rocha, Mark
Rodgers, Briscoe
Rodriguez Minowitz, Victoria
Rodriguez, Kathleen
Rodriguez, Mauricio
Roer, Mike
Rosen, Elizabeth
Rosen, Michael
Rosenfield, Todd
Rowles, Duncan
Rowles, Marian
Ruchwa, Peter
Ruiz, Richard
Russo, Jon
Russo, Michele
Sagan, Taylor
Salek, John
Salek, Linda
Santerre, Rexford
Savinelli, Kate
Saxton, Janice
Schaefer Inspection Service
Schenfeld, Maureen
Schilberg, Bernard
Schilberg, Beth
Schrader, Johanna
Schumann, Kristina
Schumann, Robert
Segar, Hayley
Seibert, Nancy
Sewall, Murphy
Sfirdis, James
Shaner, Susan
Shea, Carl
Shea, Nancy
Sheehan, Jane
Sheehan, Patrick
Sidewater, Debra
Sidoti, Samantha
Simons, Samuel
Sinclair Insurance Group
Smith, Elbert
Smith, Judy
Smith, Kathryn
Smith, Maribeth
Soar, Thomas
Soares, Richard
Sobel-Pressman, Noah
Sobel, Bernard
Sobel, Esther
Somerville, John
Somerville, Karen
Souder, David
Souder, Michele
Stallaert, Jan
Steinwachs, Kevin
Stimson, Brianna
Stokes, Autumn
Strong, Jane
Sturges, Renee
Summers, Jamie
Summers, Mark
Suydam, Lehang
Sweeney, Carolyn
Sweeney, Michael
Szegda, Richard
Szegda, Violet
Tarasewich, Peter
Taylor, Andrew
Tellone, Andrew
Thau, Bertina
Thau, Claude
The Hartford Financial Services Group
The Olde Crabs Hockey Club
Thorell, Kathryn
Thorell, Tom
Thurston, Robert
Tian, Cindy
Timlin, Diana
Toland, Linda
Toland, Paul
Tolisano, Jason
Tolisano, Kerry
Toomey, Richard
Toomey, Tina
Toscano, Daniel
Toscano, Tresa
Treiber, Elizabeth
Treiber, Thomas
Uchil, Vaishali
Ungerleider, Kathy
Ungerleider, Michael
Urban, Patricia
Urban, Robert
Valenti, Karen
Valenti, Peter
Van Sambeck, Michael
Vander Wiede, Kevin
Vartelas, Allan
Vecchio, Dolores
Vecchio, Michael
Vlandis, Harry
Vlandis, Tiffany
Vollaro, Tracy
Volman, Dana
Volman, Josef
Walker, Jules
Walters, Charlene
Webber, Linda
Webber, Marty
Webber, Rebecca
Went, Barbara
Went, Joseph
White-Tolefree, Jacqueline
Wilber, Stewart
Williams, Mehgan
Winston, Howard
Winston, Patrice
Wisniewski, Michael
Wolff, Bette
Wolff, Eileen
Wolff, Elizabeth
Wolff, Gary
Wolff, Gregory
Wolff, Keith
Wolff, Kris
Wortmann, Jeffrey
Wuestefeld, Kris
Wuestefeld, Rosemary
Wyman, Steven
Xu, Shan
Yamamoto, Mary
Yanaros, Allan
Yanaros, Barbara
Zacchea, Marcy
Zacchea, Maryann
Zackin, Stacey
Zamary, Brenda
Zamary, Cynthia
Zamary, Jack
Zamary, Samuel
Zhussanbay, Karen
Zuber, Richard

PRIORITIES 2023-2028

While we have seen tremendous growth over the last five years, we have worked over the last year to strategize a plan to continue to deliver high quality programs. As we look to the next five years at CCEI, we will focus our efforts on the following four areas:

New Venture Programs

In the next five years, CCEI will focus efforts on our new venture programs; programs that work with entrepreneurs to ideate, create, and launch startups. While the focus of our portfolio of programs is on such activity, we will continue to assess the needs from our population to determine how programs add value to the overall ecosystem. We are in early stages of designing initiatives that support entrepreneurs further down the pipeline to ensure success after they complete the CCEI accelerator programs. These “post accelerator” opportunities include the incubation of companies, funding initiatives to drive more capital into startups, and founder-focused initiatives to support leadership and growth for new entrepreneurs.

Veteran’s Entrepreneurship Initiative

CCEI is committed to delivering entrepreneurial programs for military veterans and has done so through the EBV program. Over the next five years, we will expand programming to support veterans at various stages of business development, including ideation, adding a veterans-in-residence program to support local veteran entrepreneurs as they give time and support to new EBV program participants, and creating a veterans grant program to provide more seed funding to veteran owned startups and small businesses. In addition, the majority of past program participants came from states outside of Connecticut and New England, making community building and connections back in to the state more challenging. Over the next five years, efforts will be made to expand program recruitment to local veterans organizations and other related activities in Connecticut.

Professional/Entrepreneurial Communication

Entrepreneurial communication is one of CCEI’s core values and is an important element in all of CCEI’s programming. In 2023, CCEI starting planning for the launch of The Collaboratory and its affiliated podcast called Timely Topics. Over the next five years, CCEI will focus on bringing training to entrepreneurs through individual and group sessions on effective communication and business storytelling. In addition, elements of other initiatives, including BUILD Hartford, will tie into the objectives of The Collaboratory. CCEI continues to be actively engaged in professional communication organizations and will contribute annually to publications and thought leadership activities in this space.

Physical Spaces

In the next five years, CCEI is strategically poised to expand its footprint by introducing two dynamic spaces within our two locations (Hartford and Storrs), each catering to distinct facets of entrepreneurial growth and community development. Our Hartford location space is set to welcome The Collaboratory, a vibrant hub designed to foster collaboration among diverse innovators, startups, and industry experts. This collaborative space aims to create a synergistic environment that propels innovative ideas to fruition. In addition, we are exploring the potential for re-imagining underused space on the 3rd Floor of the GBLC. This expansion could lead to the development of co-working spaces to enhance our work with Launc[H], a large-scale flexible classroom/event space designed for delivering business pitches and other networking events, as well as more office space for CCEI staff and faculty.

Simultaneously, our Storrs location space will house The Founder's Lounge, an exclusive space dedicated to nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit, providing a haven for founders to ideate, strategize, and connect. These additions underscore CCEI's commitment to cultivating an ecosystem that not only supports startups, but prioritizes community engagement and outreach.

The Collaboratory and The Founder's Lounge are poised to become integral components of the entrepreneurial landscape at UConn, serving as catalysts for innovation, networking, and the exchange of transformative ideas.

APPENDIX

Being featured in articles is crucial for enhancing CCEI's visibility and credibility, as it allows our center to reach a broader audience and establishes us as reputable. The nearly **200 articles** we've been featured in across the past five years serves as a testament to the widespread recognition and positive reception of our contributions, further solidifying our presence and influence at the University and beyond. Below are some highlights:



Examining The Importance of Developing Entrepreneurial Communication Skills in Accelerator Programs: A Focus Group Based Approach

By Rory McGloin, Arianna Saxton, Aditi Rao, Elizabeth Hintz, Amanda Coletti, Emily Hamlin, Meredith Turner, Jennifer Mathieu

This research represents CCEI's commitment to not only supporting entrepreneurs, but to contributing knowledge and best practices in the field of entrepreneurial education and pedagogy. Through their findings, **Dr. McGloin** and his team have made a significant contribution to advancing our understanding of effective communication strategies, further solidifying UConn's dedication to research.

[**Read More**](#)



As the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Celebrates its 15th Anniversary, Dozens of Startups Excel

By Claire Hall

Bronen credits the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CCEI), a part of the School of Business, for guiding the inventors on their journey from problem-solvers to true entrepreneurs. "I think CCEI really launched our company. We didn't really know what we were doing in the early stages," Bronen said. "I wasn't even sure if I was going to go to the CCEI Summer Fellowship, but Executive Director Jen Mathieu pushed us."

[**Read More**](#)



New UConn EBV Program Manager: 'We're Like a Family...Helping Accomplish Each Other's Missions'

By Claire Hall

With Nick coming onboard we are going to have the capacity to take the EBV program to the next level," she says. "He brings a lot of energy, excitement, and experience to CCEI and we are eager to have him make an impact." Martinelli says he'd like to see the program get more publicity from the military as it helps people transition to civilian life. "I've met so many people with great ideas for businesses, but they didn't know where to start," he says. "I hope we can grow the program and serve even more veterans."

[**Read More**](#)



Nyberg: Former Student Shares Success Story Thanks to UConn's Entrepreneurship Program

By Ann Nyberg

How do you start a business? Many colleges and universities are helping their students with entrepreneurial programs and that includes UConn. The Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CCEI) at UConn supports entrepreneurs and helps them get their ideas off the ground. On Nyberg, we are joined by Jennifer Mathieu, director of the center and Hayley Segar, a student who went through the program and is now full speed ahead with her swimsuit business.

[**Read More**](#)



Wolff Family Philanthropy Champions UConn Entrepreneurs with 'Unstoppable Ambition'

By Claire Hall

Wagner is a big advocate of the CCEI program and the Wolff New Venture Competition. "I encourage and recommend anyone looking at starting a business to apply," she says. "The programs were rigorous and really challenged each company to 'pressure test' their business model, which is not always comfortable."

[**Read More**](#)

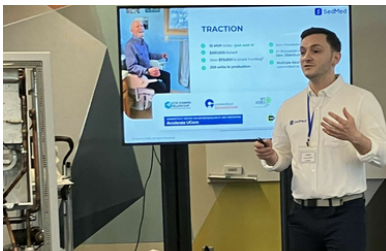


Get Seeded: Demo Day Supports, Uplifts UConn's Aspiring Entrepreneurs

By Jennifer Eburg & Matthew Hodgkins

"I participated in a pitch night for the Freshmen Female Founders, the Get Seeded pitch night, and Demo Day," she says. "It's cool to see how far I've come in a year, refining my pitch, sharpening my communication skills, and gaining a level of confidence. My ideas are valuable, and I have a seat at the table."

[**Read More**](#)



Smart Potty, Toilet Lift Among Innovative Connecticut Products Pitched at Hartford Manufacturing Event

By Liese Klein

SedMed launched with help from startup programs through UConn's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Quest, and state officials at the event said they hoped to turbo-charge similar efforts across the state to get more products manufactured locally. "If it's invented in Connecticut, I want it made in Connecticut," said Paul Lavoie, the state's chief manufacturing officer. He added that the state's relatively high cost of doing business has helped shape innovation in recent years.

[**Read More**](#)



One Pond at a Time: UConn-Affiliated Startup Looking to 'Revolutionize' Mining Industry

By Jaclyn Severance

"Through Accelerate UConn and the Summer Fellowship, the leadership at CCEI – Jen Mathieu and Michelle Cote – they really have built that program to be incredibly well-polished, and they're still constantly asking how they can improve the process," Martin says. "And they consistently ask the people that go through the program and people in industry, 'What do you need to know and how can we do better?' So, they have made that program what it is today, and it's in no small part that where we are today is in thanks to them."

[**Read More**](#)



No More Worry Warts: Medical Resident's Innovation May Revolutionize Patient Care

By Claire Hall

Despite his medical expertise, Waldman said he didn't have tremendous knowledge about business until he participated in CCEI's Summer Fellowship program. "I learned an immense amount about entrepreneurship," said Waldman, "I never had any formal training about business vocabulary, accounting, or tax structure. The instructors and mentors helped me learn many aspects of business and refine my plans," he said.

[Read More](#)

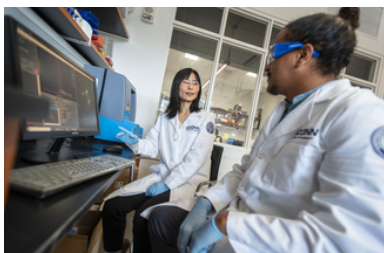


Entrepreneur, 'Summer Soul' Zachary Will Continues to Grow Fun-Flannel Shirt Company

By Claire Hall

Since becoming a UConn student, Will has participated in a series of entrepreneurship programs and competitions, including Get Seeded, Innovation Quest, and the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation's (CCEI) Summer Fellowship. Through those experiences, he learned to build a solid business plan and how to speak with confidence in front of a crowd.

[Read More](#)



Nami Therapeutics Startup Pursues Promising Drug Therapy

By Anna Zarra Aldrich

The company has received entrepreneurial training and seed funding from UConn's NSF I-Corps Site, Accelerate UConn, and the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Lu credits these opportunities with helping her team better understand the business concepts they needed to get their company off the ground. "These programs helped us shape our business plan, so we started to think like entrepreneurs and business people as well as scientists," Lu says. "A lot of technologies are so fancy and look so nice, but you can't move that technology as a product without understanding the business side of things."

[Read More](#)



UConn's CCEI, Alumni, and Affiliates Honored with 2020 CT Entrepreneur Awards

By Jaclyn Severance

UConn's Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or CCEI, was a big winner in this year's Connecticut Entrepreneur Awards, taking home top honors with recognition as the 2020 Community Promoter of the Year. The Community Promoter of the Year Award recognizes the Connecticut entrepreneurial ecosystem organization that aims to empower and build its community by assuring that its constituents get nominated and recognized first.

[Read More](#)