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Office of Research and Economic Development, Florida International University

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Successful 14-week Empower Accelerator program at StartUP FIU

January 2017

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This fall [StartUP FIU](#) launched its first 14-week accelerator program, [The Empower Accelerator](#). The program received more than 300 applications for its initial two cohorts; each cohort is intended to accept no more than 20 companies. The program is state-funded and is at no-cost to participants. Additional accelerators, focused specifically on technology, food, and the arts, will come online in 2017. The 19 teams included students, alumni, staff and local residents with no affiliation to FIU. Members of this [inaugural cohort](#) were also on-site at the [Beacon Council's Connect & Grow initiative](#) to leverage the opportunity to spread the word about their nascent organizations and invite feedback on their developing products and brands.



Pitch Day, Fall 2016

More than 300 attendees from both the FIU and South Florida community participated in FIU's first [Pitch Day](#), featuring 14 companies from the inaugural cohort of StartUP FIU's incubator program. Among the 30 venture capitalists and angel investors in the room, 9 were chosen to serve as panelists, and given the opportunity to ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of the companies. The investors expressed interest in follow-up conversations with several of the companies. The second cohort for The Empower Accelerator program will begin in January 2017.



The 2017 HULT Prize Competition

On December 9, 2016, [StartUP FIU](#) held its first [Hult Prize competition](#). The Hult Prize is an international competition boasting a \$1million prize, offered through The Hult Prize Foundation in partnership with Former US President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative. The Foundation is a start-up accelerator for budding young social entrepreneurs emerging from the world's universities. For our part, StartUP FIU hosted a university-wide competition to select one team to represent FIU at regionals, as well as to win a spot in StartUP FIU's Empower Accelerator program. Each team was asked one question, "[Can we build sustainable, scalable social enterprises that restore the rights and dignity of 10 million refugees by 2022?](#)"

Of the 10 teams that participated, **We-Women** stood out from the rest with a clear and feasible business plan that held the greatest promise of having a more immediate impact. This team's mission is to solve a problem faced by women refugees all around the world—the lack of feminine hygiene products. Their solution uses the leaves of banana trees to produce hypoallergenic and environmentally friendly menstrual pads, with an added twist—*buy a pad, give a pad*. Thus providing refugee women with a product that will allow them to go to school, work and be productive members of society. StartUP FIU will work with We-Women to prepare for the regional semi-final rounds of competition to be held in Boston on March 3, 2017. The overall winner of the 2017 HULT Prize will use the cash prize to help bring their idea to fruition.

Upcoming Events

January 2017

- Jan 4 – 7, 9 am to 5 pm, GL 100, [FIU Conference on Geometry, Topology and Applications](#)
- Jan 18, 2 to 3 pm, ECS 241, [High-Capacity Optical Communications Using Multiplexing of Multiple Orbital-Angular-Momentum Beams](#), presented by [Alan Willner](#)
- Jan 18, 7 to 8:30 pm, The Deering Estate Visitor Center Theater, [Algae as Beacons of Environmental Change in South Florida](#), featuring [Stephen E. Davis III](#), [Evelyn Gaiser](#), [Kelly Rein](#) and [Ana Tronholm](#)

February

- Feb 3, 11 to 12 noon, TBD, [Different Mechanisms for Lesion Bypass by TLS DNA Polymerases](#), presented by [Wei Wang](#) from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
- Feb 10, 2 to 3 pm, ECS 241, [Socially Interactive Robots for Pediatric Therapy](#), presented by [Ayanna Howard](#)
- Feb 22 – 24, 8 am to 5 pm, Kovens Conference Center, [Miami International Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference \(MICAMH\)](#), hosted by the Center for Children and Families—[registration required](#)

March

- Mar 3, 2 to 3 pm, ECS 241, [Trillion Sensors Technology: Research, Commercialization and Education](#), presented by [Albert Pisano](#)

Awards Received—November 2016

FIU researchers were awarded \$3,994,115 in November 2016. Below is a listing of awards received.

Allan Rosenbaum

Initial

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

Public Administration

Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs

TDC XXIII Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities \$14,400

Allan Rosenbaum

Initial

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

Public Administration

Miami-Dade County Port of Miami

XXIII Inter-American Conference of Mayors – Seaport \$52,063

Atorod Azizinamini

Increase

College of Engineering and Computing

Civil and Environ Engineering

U.S. Department of Transportation

Tier 1 University Transportation Center U.S. DOT Strategic Goal Focus Area \$61,880

Barry Philip Rosen

Continuation

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

COM Cell Biology and Pharm

National Institutes of Health

The Human Arsenic Methylation Pathway \$322,099

Brian Fonseca

Increase

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

J Gordon Inst Pub Pol and Citi

CACI International Inc.

CERDEC Flight Activity (CFA) System Engineering Support \$175,000

Carlos Arturo Espinal Tejada

Initial

Robert Stempel College of Public Health Social Work

Health Promo and Disease Prev

Merck & Co. Inc. MSD Pharmaceuticals

Workshop of experts on Antimicrobial Resistance from Latin America/Caribbean \$30,000

Carlos Arturo Espinal Tejada

Initial

Robert Stempel College of Public Health Social Work

Health Promo and Disease Prev

Novartis Latin America Services Inc.

Workshop on Health access and policies in Latin American and Caribbean Countries \$9,000

Casey P Steadman

Initial

Academic Affairs - Other Units

The Wolfsonian

Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs

2016-2017 Miami Dade County-Major Cultural Institutions \$290,199

Casey P Steadman

Increase

Academic Affairs - Other Units

The Wolfsonian

FIU Foundation

Knight Museum of Ideas Fund \$62,990

Cheng-Tin Gan

Initial

College of Engineering and Computing

Civil and Environ Engineering

Florida Department of Transportation

Feasibility of Using Video Image Detectors for Ramp Signal Operations \$175,000

Cheng-Tin Gan

Initial

College of Engineering and Computing

Civil and Environ Engineering

Florida Department of Transportation

District 4 ITS Research, Computer, and Miscellaneous Support (WO #462-06) \$150,000

Chenzhong Li

Supplemental
 College of Engineering and Computing
 Biomedical Engineering
 Everglades Foundation
 Paper based Disposable Biosensors for Trace Analysis of Organophosphate \$20,000

Debra Lundy

Initial
 Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
 Sch of Hosp and Tourism Mgmt
 Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs
 2016-17 FEST South Beach Wine & Food Festival \$79,297

Eric Bishop-Von Wettberg

Increase
 College of Arts, Sciences & Education
 Biology
 University of California Davis
 Deducing the genomic footprint and functional impact of chickpea \$194,914

Henry Briceno

Continuation
 College of Arts, Sciences & Education
 Southeast Env Research Ctr
 Islamorada, Village of Islands
 Water Quality Monitoring Program for the Village of Islamorada, Florida Keys \$74,036

Jacqueline Bueno Sousa

Agreement
 College of Business
 COB Deans Office
 Rebuild Miami LLC
 Small Business Development Agreement between the FIU BOT and Rebuild Miami LLC \$2,500

James Fourqurean

Supplemental
 College of Arts, Sciences & Education
 Biology
 National Aeronautics & Space Administration
 Aquarius Reef Base: NEEMO_XX_NASA \$35,613

Jeremy Kiszka

Initial
 College of Arts, Sciences & Education
 SEAS
 Integrated Statistics
 Humpback whales of the southeastern Caribbean \$6,980

Joann Arnowitz

Initial

Academic Affairs - Other Units

Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU

Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs

FY 2016-2017 (MCI) Season Activities

\$166,351

John Stuart

Initial

College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts

CARTA Deans Off

City of Miami Beach

City of Miami Beach Junior Cultural Anchor Grant 16-17

\$4,550

Jordana Pomeroy

Initial

Academic Affairs - Other Units

Frost Art Museum

Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs

MCI FY2016-2017 Season Activities

\$164,103

Julio E Ibarra

Increase

Academic Affairs - Other Units

CIARA

National Science Foundation

Campus Cyber Infrastructure- CC*DNI

\$199,213

Kathleen Marie Quardokus Fisher

Initial

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Earth and Environment

Fort Hays State University

GEO Opportunities for Leadership in Diversity (GOLD): Hearts of GOLD

\$62,901

Kenneth G Furton

Increase

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Chemistry

Office of Naval Research

Exploring the Effects of the Generalization-Discrimination Balance and Odor

\$870

Kenneth G Furton

Initial

Academic Affairs - Other Units

Provost and Exec VP Acad Aff

Colgate-Palmolive Company

Colgate Project Phase II: Hispanic Pilot Study

\$56,800

Kenneth J Lipartito

Initial

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

History

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Strategic Plan for Black Precinct and Courthouse in Overtown

\$49,398

Leonard Scinto

Increase

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Earth and Environment

South Florida Water Management District

Settling and entrainment properties of STA particulates

\$190,983

Lidia Kos

Initial

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Biology

Moffitt Cancer Center

The role of metabotropic glutamate receptor 1 signaling in leptomeningeal melanoma

\$50,000

Malek Adjouadi

Initial

College of Engineering and Computing

Elec and Computer Eng

University of Texas El Paso

BPC-AE: Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions

\$47,109

Mark Patrick Traynor

Initial

Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

Sch of Hosp and Tourism Mgmt

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Cochran Fellowship Program on School Meals Program (Panama) - Central America

\$90,763

Mohammed A Hadi

Initial

College of Engineering and Computing

Civil and Environ Engineering

Florida Department of Transportation

Testing of a Vision-Based Warning System on Transit Vehicles

\$212,273

Richard Olson

Initial

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

Politics and Intl Relations

Florida Division of Emergency Management

FIU's Hurricane Loss Reduction for Housing in Florida

\$700,000

Shanna L Burke

Initial

Robert Stempel College of Public Health Social Work

School of Social Work

Neuroscience Centers of Florida Foundation

Development of a Battery of Measurement Instruments to Assess Dementia Spectrum \$2,500

Sharon R Simon

Increase

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Nursing Undergraduate

Health Resources & Services Administration

Veterans to BSN Program \$51,680

Shimelis Gebriye Setegn

Continuation

Robert Stempel College of Public Health Social Work

Environmental and Occupational Health

University of Puerto Rico

Human Impacts to Coastal Ecosystems in Puerto Rico \$49,116

Stacy Lynn Frazier

Continuation

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Psychology

National Institute of Mental Health

Emotion Regulation for Urban Youth: Minimizing Risk for Anxiety and Depression \$34,490

Thomas A Frankovich

Initial

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Southeast Env Research Ctr

National Park Service

Linkages of Water Quality, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation \$80,000

Tiffany Troxler

Increase

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Southeast Env Research Ctr

U.S. Geological Survey

Linking Satellite and Soil Data to Validate Coastal Wetland "Blue Carbon" \$24,984

Zhaohui Fu

Increase

Academic Affairs - Other Units

GIS Center and Digital Collection

City of Coral Gables

Immigration Narrative \$60

Funding Opportunities

ORED has a new, improved and interactive webpage for funding opportunities. Please visit <http://research.fiu.edu/funding/#current>.

Limited Submissions

Current limited submission opportunities are available at <http://research.fiu.edu/funding/limited-submissions/>.

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