1-1-2017

ORED Communicator - January 2017

Office of Research and Economic Development, Florida International University

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Successful 14-week Empower Accelerator program at StartUP FIU

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 $1 million 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 an 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 semifinal 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

For updates, corrections, suggestions, and/or general comments, please email Mercedes.rodriguez@fiu.edu
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

For updates, corrections, suggestions, and/or general comments, please email Mercedes.rodriguez@fiu.edu
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](http://research.fiu.edu/funding/#current).

**Limited Submissions**
Current limited submission opportunities are available at [http://research.fiu.edu/funding/limited-submissions/](http://research.fiu.edu/funding/limited-submissions/).

**Contact ORED Senior Leadership**

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