



Learning through doing: A three-stage curricular and co-curricular pipeline for student social venturing

Background:

In the last 20 years, entrepreneurship has played a significant role in the University of Illinois' central missions of research, teaching, public engagement, and economic development. This growth in entrepreneurial action at Illinois has resulted in significant economic growth, the creation of campus resources for entrepreneurship, and campus support for students creating ventures—along with the concomitant learning associated with the entrepreneurial process.

However, entrepreneurial resources are not equally accessible and visible to all students across campus, and there is a clear gap in bringing our student, faculty, and community partners together around solving the 21st centuries toughest social challenges. We have now convened partners from across campus to broaden the definition of entrepreneurship at Illinois and create new programs for students with very different talents to work together on important social, cultural, and environmental issues. To that end, we have piloted the following three course pipeline consisting of two courses and an 11-month accelerator program:

STAGE I

Social Entrepreneurship & Social Change

- Students learn about socially motivated entrepreneurship and design ventures
- Students pitch to community foundations

STAGE II

Advanced Social Startup Launch

- Incubator-style class with modules to assist students in venture development

STAGE III

iVENTURE ACCELERATOR

- Educational accelerator program for our top student startups
- Supports firms creating social, tech, cultural, and commercial value

Inaugural Class

13 startups and 33 students from 24 majors & minors across 7 colleges

Support

- Up to \$10,000 in seed funding; by application. \$2,500 stipend per student to cover living costs over the summer.
- Dedicated coaches and advisors
- Workshops with world-class faculty and entrepreneurs. Site visits and networking in Chicago startup ecosystem.
- Co-working space for academic year

Startup Accomplishments

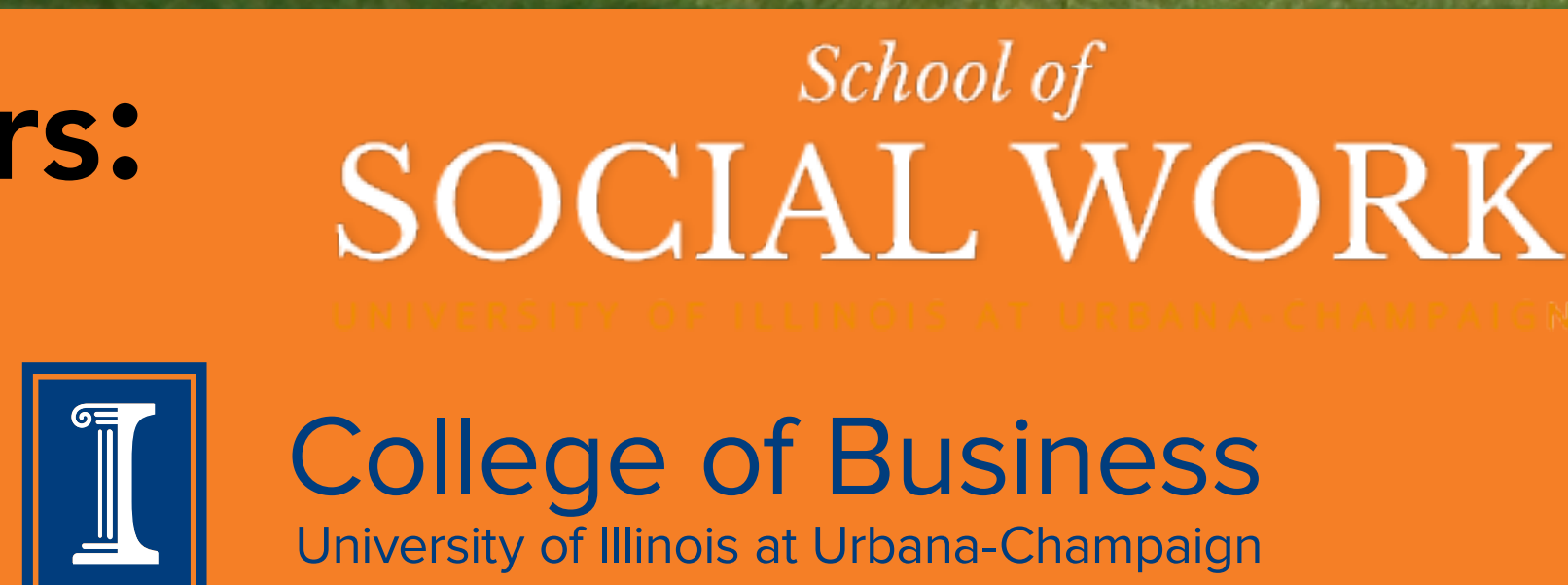
- **PSYONIC** creates affordable, high-tech prosthetics. Recently, their co-founder, Patrick Slade, was selected for Forbes 30 Under 30: Healthcare, and the team was awarded VentureWell's eTeam grant of \$5,000.
- **Invoq Health** is developing an IT platform for rural healthcare NGOs to manage their patient health data. They recently deployed in India and Sierra Leone; managing 110,000 patient records. They've partnered with UIUC Global Health Initiative and presented at eHealth International Congress in Bologna, Italy.
- **Qbitis** was awarded a contract with Mayo Clinic for 12 of their shoulder-injury preventing gloves for wheelchair users.
- **Kofman Technologies** is building drones and body armor for police and military first responders. They were admitted to TechNexus and Department of Homeland Security's EMERGE Accelerator to gain key connections in their industry.
- **MakerGirl**, a company focused on inspiring young girls interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) through 3D printing workshops are expanding nationwide and running a mobile truck in Summer 2016.

- 75+ student social ventures
- 400+ students enrolled, winners of University and national awards

Support available throughout the pipeline

- + **Team Formation** through recurring SocialFuse pitching and networking events. Event run by the Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC)
- + **Capacity Fund** for necessary startup costs: prototypes, supplies, incorporation. Administered by application only: funded items must provide startup key capabilities that specifically help them achieve agreed upon milestones.
- + **Startup Advisors** as mentor/lecturers: Includes Forbes 30 Under 30, Ashoka, Soros, Gates honorees, with experience at Google, Amazon, SpotHero, Zynga, Venture Capital

Partners:



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