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**VentureWell Announces
Winners of Spring 2015 E-Team and Faculty Grants**

Grants awarded to teams of college students to commercialize new technologies, faculty to found new courses and programs that teach entrepreneurship

Hadley, MA—September 16, 2015—VentureWell, a non-profit that enables powerful approaches to stimulating science and technology invention, innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education, government and philanthropy, today announced the winners of its spring 2015 round of [E-Team Program](#) and [Faculty Grants](#).

VentureWell's E-Team Program gives collegiate teams the chance to move new technologies out of the lab and classroom and into the marketplace. The three-stage program provides grant funding, experiential workshops, veteran coaching and a potential investment opportunity to help student teams manifest their projects' full commercial potential.

The innovations from the spring 2015 round range from new clean tech devices (solar panels for vertical building walls; portable, collapsible wind turbines) to biomedical (low-cost, neurally controlled prosthetic hands; an antimicrobial coating for medical devices) to new materials technologies (processing for the ceramics industry; engineering-grade desktop 3D printers). Read about all 19 inventions [here](#).

"In 2015, we are continuing our legacy as a leader in supporting science- and technology-based entrepreneurship in higher education," said Phil Weilerstein, President of VentureWell. "We've given grants to more than 500 student teams over 20 years, and more than half of the ventures they founded are still in business today, operating in over 50 countries. We look forward to helping the 2015 E-Team Program grantees achieve similar success through our seed funding and series of experiential workshops."

Selected from a pool of 64 applicants, the teams participating in the E-Team Program are from schools across the country. Over the summer, the teams attended rigorous three-day workshops at the Microsoft NERD Center in Cambridge on how to better articulate the opportunity for their innovations in the marketplace and develop their business model hypotheses and plans to test them.

VentureWell's Faculty Grants support the creation of new courses and programs in which students learn how to be technology entrepreneurs, developing ideas and gaining the skills to bring them to market. The goal of these courses and programs is twofold: to lead to the formation of E-Teams, and to help students learn by doing—gaining the entrepreneurial skills they need by actually forming teams and trying to make both the technologies and business models work.

The fifteen new grantees include:

- **Carolina E(I) Lab** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) -- Experiential entrepreneurship program for graduate students
- **Master of Science in Law Entrepreneurship Lab** (Northwestern University) -- Program teaching STEM-trained students about the legal aspects of innovation and entrepreneurship
- **Design Thinking Modules that Support Student Entrepreneurs** (Columbia University) -- 2-4 week design thinking experiential learning modules

"Faculty Grants play a key role in our continuous building of a national entrepreneurship ecosystem in higher education," said Jennifer Keller Jackson, VentureWell Senior Program Officer, Special Programs. "This year's grantees will build more than a dozen new courses or programs, giving students the opportunity to work on real world problems in a curricular and extracurricular context."

Read about all the Faculty Grant recipients [here](#).

About VentureWell:

VentureWell was founded in 1995 as the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) and rebranded in 2014 to underscore its impact as an education network that cultivates revolutionary ideas and promising inventions. A not-for-profit organization reaching more than 200 universities, VentureWell is the leader in funding, training, coaching and early investment that brings student innovations to market. Inventions created by VentureWell grantees are reaching millions of people in over 50 countries and helping to solve some of our greatest 21st century challenges. To learn more, visit www.venturewell.org.

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