

From the Desk of the Chancellor

Energizing entrepreneurs

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by Charles R. Bantz

IUPUI impacts the economy of Central Indiana, the state and beyond, in many different ways -- through employment, research, innovation, purchasing and, of course, education. As part of the new strategic plan to strengthen the impact through education, the campus is supporting students as entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurship includes inventors who create new business opportunities as well as students committed to social entrepreneurship by applying entrepreneurial strategies to enhance the quality of life for others.

The vice chancellor for research, Kody Varahramyan, and his team launched the IUPUI "Ideas Solving Social and Economic Challenges" student idea pitch. Winning students have invented a shopping budget app, a machine and system to reward campus recycling, a deal-of-the-week website and micro-grid kits for the developing world.

Our goal in the student idea pitch, and many other programs, is to increase the number of graduates who are equipped for entrepreneurial thinking and action, whether through new businesses and job creation or as employees in existing organizations.

IUPUI's commitment to the welfare of the community is embedded firmly in our mission and advanced by our new strategic plan. As Indiana's urban public research institution, IUPUI is a strong partner in Central Indiana's economic development efforts through talent and workforce development, internationalization and research.

There is more that we can do to enhance entrepreneurship in our region and state by developing a culture of entrepreneurship among IUPUI students. Several school-based entrepreneurial initiatives are also effective and highly productive. Ultimately, I want IUPUI to build on these successes and to extend the concept campus wide.

Last week, IUPUI faculty, staff, and students representatives joined key community stakeholders to discuss ways to enhance entrepreneurship opportunities. The exchange was productive and helped to establish meaningful rapport. That's great because the most effective and lasting innovations will be fueled by such ongoing campus-community collaboration!

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Key community stakeholders offered entrepreneurship perspectives to IUPUI faculty, staff and students during a session at Hine Hall. | PHOTO BY KRISTOFER KAROL