

CLEMSON®

ARTHUR M. SPIRO INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP



BACKGROUND

In 1994, the Spiro Institute was launched with a gift of \$1.5 million by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Spiro, and in 1996, it enjoyed its first full year of operations. Now over twenty years later, the Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership is a thriving unit on campus. Not only do the Institute's academic, research and service programs touch students in all colleges, engage faculty from a variety of disciplines and extend the work of the University to the community through project-based activities with inventors, entrepreneurs and established companies, but they truly represent the entrepreneurial spirit on the Clemson University campus to all of our many constituents.

MISSION

The mission of the Arthur M. Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership is to provide an educational research program in entrepreneurship that will contribute to the economic development of the region, state and nation. The focus is on wealth creation through entrepreneurial activity. Specific objectives for the Arthur M. Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership include:

- implementing an undergraduate and graduate course of study in entrepreneurship that is interdisciplinary in scope and incorporates an organized executive-in-residence program involving successful entrepreneurs with students and faculty to enhance the classroom experience;
- supporting research in the field of entrepreneurship and wealth creation; and
- working with the Clemson University Research Foundation and other organizations to enhance activities and the linking of students, faculty and entrepreneurs.

BELIEFS

We believe students from all disciplines should have access to educational opportunities and experiences in entrepreneurial leadership. Students learn best through hands-on experiences coupled with academic instruction. The institute builds all of its academic initiatives around service learning projects and field experiences.

- Whereas all entrepreneurial activity is of interest to us and will be supported, we are cultivating expertise in technology entrepreneurship to complement Clemson's strengths in technology development within agriculture, engineering and the sciences.
- We are committed to providing outreach assistance to pre-ventures, early ventures and established firms through service-learning projects that match students with entrepreneurs and inventors and through volunteer mentors who provide service on behalf of the institute.
- We are committed to collaborations with other groups within the University and in the region to promote economic development through innovation and entrepreneurial activity.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Arthur M. Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership Advisory Board is an independent organization, providing support and assistance to the Spiro Institute. Its mission is to advise the institute about its progress and interactions with external individuals, corporations and agencies. It also develops, plans and facilitates specific targeted activities that advance the institute's goals through outreach.

FACULTY FELLOWS

The success of the Arthur M. Spiro Institute at Clemson University depends on the personal commitment and active involvement of a select group of faculty who understand the privilege to serve and the responsibility to lead. Spiro Faculty Fellows are expected to be zealous advocates on behalf of the institute as well as enthusiastic communicators of its mission and play an integral role in our entrepreneurship activities.

FOUNDER SOCIETY

The Founder Society is a collection of successful Clemson affiliated entrepreneurs from a wide variety of industries and academic disciplines who feel compelled to give their time, money and talents back to the students, faculty, staff and alumni of Clemson in the hope of developing the next generation of entrepreneurs that will be part of positive change in the world.

The Founder Society believes in the opportunity to create and invest in an organization that supports academic exposure and a practical entrepreneurial ecosystem fostering innovation on, in and around Clemson's main campus.

The Founder Society believes that our students, faculty, staff and alumni should have more opportunities in the planning and vetting processes of developing early-stage and small-business ideas.

We believe that the opportunities created by the Spiro Institute and the Founder Society should include and connect students from every college and major. Bringing together students with diverse skills, backgrounds and disciplines will make the overall experiences and output better.

SUPPORT

Over the last twenty years, the Spiro Institute has upheld the tenets of its mission and established a pattern of ever-increasing support for students and ever-expanding community outreach. With your help, we can ensure that the Spiro Institute will be the focal point of the teaching, research and service activities that will contribute to the economic development of the region, state and nation.

The Spiro Institute has successfully addressed the needs of Clemson entrepreneurs since its inception in 1994, but there are many opportunities the institute can pursue with additional financial backing.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

FACILITIES

Naming rights of the Clemson Venture Accelerator
(main campus or Greenville)

FACULTY

- Endowed chair
- Visiting professorship
- Distinguished professorship

EDUCATION

- Distinguished lecturer or seminar series
- Creative Inquiry project

INTERNSHIPS

- Entrepreneur-in-residence
- Business analysts

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Living-Learning community
- Student advisory board
- Entrepreneur shadow program

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITIONS

- Pitch Smackdown competition
- ACC InVenture competition

METRICS

EDUCATION

Number of undergraduate courses offered	9
Number of students enrolled	818
Number of students minoring in entrepreneurship	78

INTERNSHIPS

UPIC entrepreneur-in-residence <i>(paid to work on startup)</i>	20
UPIC business analysts <i>(placement with high growth startup companies)</i>	5

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Living-Learning Community members	34
Student Advisory Board members	25
Student entrepreneur shadow program	8
Faculty Engagement	
Translating research into reality <i>(spring 2016)</i>	52
Entrepreneurship & commercialization resources panel <i>(fall 2016)</i>	37

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITIONS

Pitch Smackdown 2016 applications	38
Pitch Smackdown prize	\$32,500
ACC InVenture 2016 applications	39
ACC InVenture 2016 prize	\$5,000