



Building Innovation Partnerships Across Disciplines: *An Entrepreneurial Perspective*

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“We believe this moment in history makes unlocking the innovative potential of our research universities a national imperative, and an entrepreneurial mindset is key to achieving this objective.”

-H. Thorp and B. Goldstein

What about entrepreneurship resonates across a campus?

- For some, it's just about commercialization, or new sources of revenue for academic units

For others it is much more...

- A mindset
- Entrepreneurship as empowerment and transformation
- Beyond innovation or creativity --- doing what is necessary to implement change

The entrepreneurial mindset

Attitude

- you can affect change
- there is a better way
- opportunities are everywhere
- embrace innovation, change & growth
- failure is learning

Behavior

- act on opportunity
- continuously innovate
- persevere
- leverage resources
- act as a guerrilla
- mitigate risks
- adapt

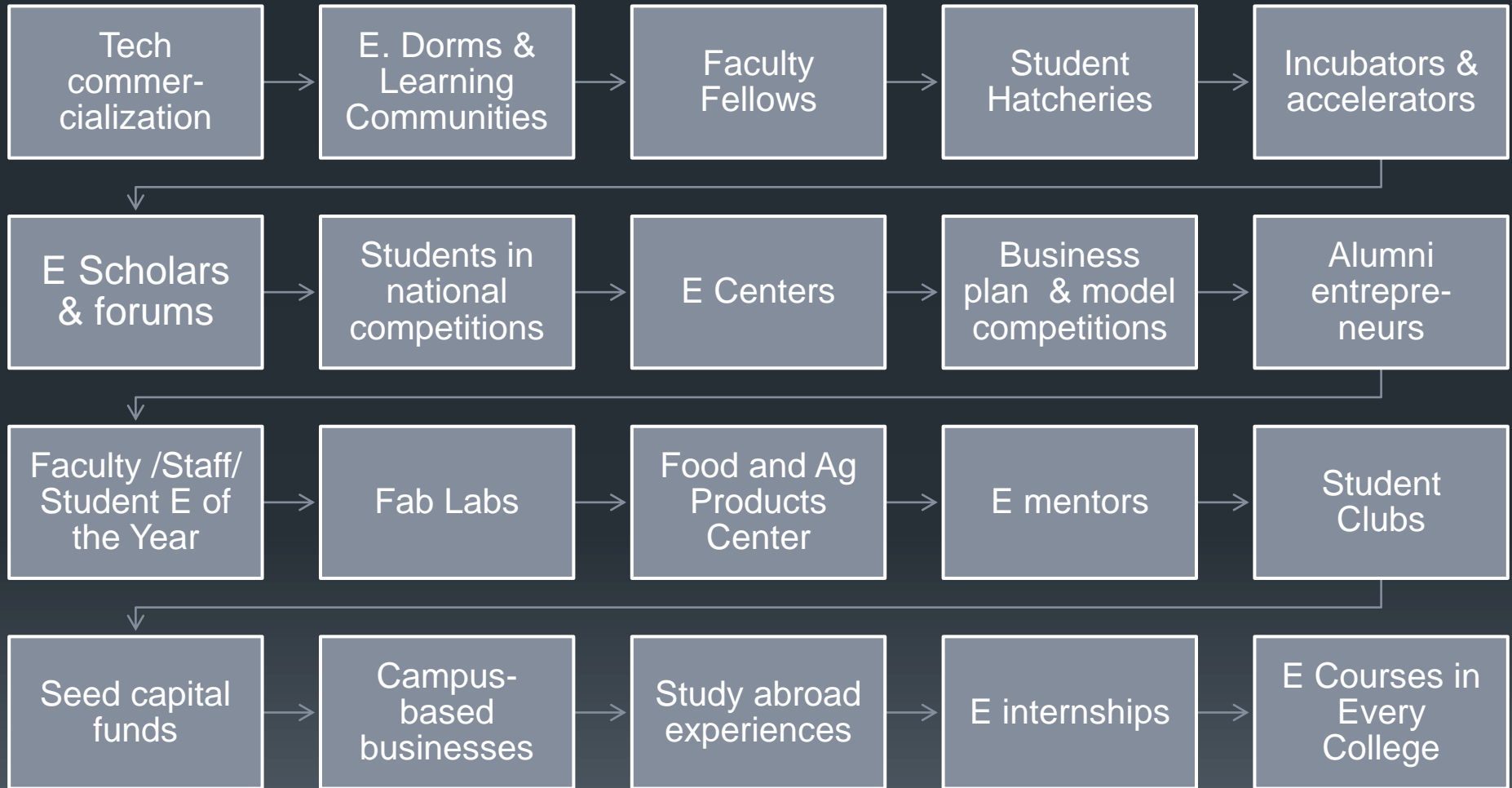
Professionally

- Pursuing an entrepreneurial career
 - academic E
 - start up E
 - corporate E
 - social E
 - public sector E
 - family business E
 - E in a profession

In One's Life

- the family
- church activity
- community involvement
- personal relationships
- personal finances
- dealing with life challenges

The university ecosystem



The need for a model...

- Diffusion model
- Hub model
- Hybrid structural forms

Collaboration & partnerships



- A. Helping those within a discipline do entrepreneurial things

- B. Producing interdisciplinary outcomes
 - Collaborative teaching
 - Research partnerships
 - Technology commercialization teams
 - Interdisciplinary engagements in the community

Fostering academic entrepreneurs



- discovering opportunity in the academic setting
- developing innovations to capitalize on opportunity
- implementing a constant stream of innovations
- taking calculated risks in a university environment
- leveraging resources
- acting as a guerrilla

What academic entrepreneurs do...

1. Redefine disciplinary boundaries
2. Introduce new schools of thought
3. Launch new political and social movements
4. Transform how subjects are taught
5. Affect social change and development in the community
6. Change how resources are used in society, how species are saved, how environments are sustained, and life quality is improved
7. Develop and implement new business models for how academic units are run and sustained financially
8. Produce new forms of economic value in the marketplace
9. Develop and commercialize new technologies
10. Create new for-profit and non-profit ventures

Collaboration vehicles at UF...

- Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows
- Gator Hatchery
- Entrepreneurship Research Colloquia
- Experiential Classroom
- Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Innovation Hub
- GATOR 100
- Big idea Competition
- JUMPStart
- Legal clinic for entrepreneurship
- Innovation Academy
- Infinity Hall
- CIE Learning Community
- UF TEDx
- EESA
- Innovation Scholars (students)
- Cross campus entrepreneurship courses

Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows

- Purpose
- Funding
- Selection and terms
- Projects
- Monthly lunches
- Annual forum
- How CEI supports the Fellows
 - advice, connection to expertise, Gatornest, Experiential Classroom, funding, interns, class projects, Gator 100

Outcomes of the Fellows

- New courses on entrepreneurship in law, engineering, marine science, journalism, construction management, pharmacy
- Two innovative community engagement projects in public health
- New national initiative on use of genetic information in pharmacy
- Two technology commercialization projects
- Two interdisciplinary scholarly articles
- Two other commercialization/diffusion projects involving faculty IP
- Business model to monetize a social initiatives

Lessons learned

- Academic entrepreneurs are everywhere on a campus
- They benefit from basic tools and conceptualizations
- Everyone has a unique disciplinary or professional lens
- One is trying to foster intellectual collisions
- Collaboration requires that an agenda not be pushed and that things are allowed to emerge
- Faculty will use the tools and support provided when there are no strings

Ongoing challenges

- Reward systems vary across colleges
- Sustainable funding
- Deans vary in their degree of support
- Easier to attract more applied disciplines

... a different vision of the university

- Not an ivory tower
- Not just a repository of knowledge
- Not an island of intellectual tranquility
- Not a bureaucracy driven by committee and process

But instead...

- The university as agent of economic and social change
- A place of collisions, collaborations and societal engagement



***The at-risk university is the
university not prepared for the
entrepreneurial age***