The Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce (MLCIC) seeks to develop the region's economy by promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at the confluence of business administration and engineering, through research, education, and collaboration.

Innovation Corps (I-Corps) is a 4-week intensive training program that enables teams of scientists, researchers, and engineers to explore the commercial potential of their research or business innovation. Participants will gain a better understanding of their market, customers, competitors, and industry. During the program, you will receive mentorship and guidance from the teaching team and funds to help your team with customer discovery.

Program Highlights

Benefits
- Receive lineage for the NSF I-Corps Teams program
- Up to $1,000 for building a prototype
- Learn about customer discovery from national leaders
- Free T-shirts, mugs, and books about entrepreneurship

Team Composition
Minimum of 2 people per team:
- 1 faculty mentor/technical lead
- 1 student entrepreneurial lead
- 1 industrial mentor (preferred but not required)
Questions?
Contact Dr. Thomas Boland, Professor and Director of the Biomedical Engineering Programs at tboland@utep.edu

Apply

3 Local Workshops
• **July 19, 2021**: 8:00 a.m. at CCBS G.0706 (breakfast and lunch will be provided)
• **August 3, 2021**: virtual
• **August 20, 2021**: 9:30 a.m. at CCSB G.0706 (breakfast and lunch will be provided)

Sign up [here](#). This will help the I-Corps team with planning the workshop. However, you can also just show up and you will be welcome to join the workshops.
Medical Center of the Americas Foundation
Innovation Center Program

The Medical Center of the Americas Foundation (MCA) helps create a thriving biomedical industry in the Paso del Norte region by offering initiatives to help entrepreneurs and startups take their product or service to the next level. This includes guidance from industry veterans, access to world-class laboratory facilities, and opportunities for seed funding.

The Innovation Center Program serves innovators, entrepreneurs, and startups from the ideation stage of development through business launch and growth. The program focus is on developing entrepreneurial skills and company systems and culture that allow you to accelerate the success of your startup.

Program Highlights

Receive Access to MCA Resources, Including

- Direct advising from MCA Innovation Staff
- Entrepreneurial Training curriculum designed to teach the skills necessary to validate your product or service, understand how to launch your company, and obtain the resources necessary for growth
- Events, such as pitch days, expert speakers and panels, and networking
- MCA facilities, including coworking office space, product development/manufacturing space, and lab space

Who Should Apply?

- Individuals looking to develop their innovation into a commercial venture
- Individuals with prior experience in research, product development, or business preferred
- Individuals working in health, medical, and biotechnology applications preferred
What Does MCA Expect?

- Innovators will work alongside MCA Innovation Center Staff to create a progress plan for their innovation or entrepreneurial growth
- Active participation by all program participants
- Entrepreneurs will be required to participate in entrepreneurial trainings and meet on a monthly basis with MCA Innovation Center Staff to evaluate progress
- Individuals who do not make sufficient progress on their progress plan will not be allowed to remain in the program

Further details about the Innovation Center Program are available on their website here.

Apply

Read through the Eligibility, Exclusions & Requirements on the right-hand side of their application website before applying.

Apply here.
Texas Venture Connect
TEXVMS

Texas Venture Connect (TVC) is a mentor network that brings together diverse experts and experienced entrepreneurs to increase the success for UT-related innovators. TVC leverages trained volunteer mentors that provide high-quality, conflict-free, team-based entrepreneurship mentoring to help guide UT innovators.

Along with UT Austin and UT Permian Basin, UT El Paso is a part of TEX Venture Mentoring Service (TEXVMS), an organization formed to support entrepreneurial activity in the state of Texas. It is the Austin Technology Incubator’s (ATI) mentoring service and is operated by ATI with the support of the University of Texas System. TEXVMS is based on the methodology of the MIT Venture Mentoring Service (VMS), which as been used at MIT since 2000 and successfully replicated at over 50 organizations worldwide.

Program Highlights

The VMS Model is Based on

- Team mentoring
- Strict guiding principles/code of ethics
- A community of highly qualified and committed volunteer mentors
- Focus on developing the entrepreneur
- Practical, actionable advice

Further details about the TEXVMS program are available on their website here and here.

Apply

Read through the application requirements and apply here.
UT Austin
Texas Innovation Center

The Texas Innovation Center brings engineering and science discoveries and technologies to the market. The center provides the resources needed to transform new ideas and discoveries into startup companies that successfully access the marketplace, preparing innovators to succeed in a global economy.

A unique advising network brings together individualized, one-on-one advising and mentoring specific to the technical and business area of your startup. The network brings the investment community as advisors to the Texas Innovation Center leadership team and to startups in building long-term, sustaining relationships for helping to understand the current state of the market and competitive landscape in assisting a startup to develop and pivot.

Program Highlights

Startup Resources
• New Venture Support
• Startup-In-A-Box Partners
• Co-Working Space
• Wet Lab Incubator
• Texas Law School Videos and Collateral
• Texas Venture Labs Support - Business Development and Financial Forecasting

Learn more about and access the above resources here.

Here is a selection of a few important COVID-19 resources relevant to startups.

Community Co-working Space
• open desks
• two conference rooms
• a state-of-the-art video conferencing room for working on ventures and hosting meetings
Learn more about the space here, and to reserve space, email innovation@utexas.edu.

**Funding**

• Student Scholarship Awards to highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students who are excelling in entrepreneurship, innovation, technology commercialization and research.
Learn more about funding here.

Further details about the Texas Innovation Center at UT Austin are available on their website here.

**Apply**

Apply to programs including STEM Innovation and Technology Commercialization Class and Texas Biodesign.

View and apply to additional events.

Explore Student Scholarships and apply.
Texas Medical Center
Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics

Texas Medical Center (TMC) — the largest medical city in the world — is at the forefront of advancing life sciences. TMC nurtures cross-institutional collaboration, creativity and innovation. TMC Innovation is shaping the future of health care by uniting promising innovators with the best minds in science and medicine at the member institutions of the Texas Medical Center.

TMC Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) is the only cancer therapeutics accelerator building relationships with health care professionals leading the world’s best cancer treatment programs at the TMC member hospitals. The ACT program is a nine-month accelerator program to support Texas-based biotech entrepreneurs, researchers contemplating translations, and internal comprehensive drug development programs.

Program Highlights

Curriculum

• Gain a deep understanding of market research, FDA regulations, intellectual property, licensing, finance, fundraising, legal, and other critical areas
• Develop and incorporate an integrated strategic plan that guides your company’s business and drug development efforts
• Culminates with at least one grant submission, and an option to pitch to investors, corporate partners, media, and other influential guests

Key Program Benefits

• Curated mentor network to enable progress toward a comprehensive product and business development roadmap
• Identification of and plan to address critical gaps and key experiments to enable funding
• Proximity to world-class researchers and experts in the Texas Medical Center.
• GCC Drug Development Core Network and GCC training resources
• JLABS@TMC Lab space
• Dedicated TMC ACT computational chemistry resources
• Grant writing support to seek non-dilutive funding
• Access to competitive intelligence
• Venture capital relationship development and pitch opportunities
• Program participant portal

Further details about TMC ACT are available on their website here.

Apply

Application to TMC ACT begins with an inquiry and office hour appointment request. Inquire about open office hours here. The ACT team is also reachable by email at act@tmc.edu.
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas
Product Development Research

The Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) is the state agency mandated to invest in the research prowess of Texas universities and research organizations, create and expand life science infrastructure across the state, and expedite innovation in research and enhance the potential of breakthroughs in prevention and cures.

CPRIT’s Product Development Research Program funds projects at Texas-based companies developing novel products or services intended to benefit cancer patients. Product development activities convert novel laboratory findings into a safe and reliable product available to treat cancer patients. CPRIT supports projects that accelerate the development of promising research discoveries through the crucial early stages of regulatory development.

Program Highlights

Objectives
• Identifying and funding projects to develop novel drugs, diagnostic applications, medical devices and other non-traditional products with focused relevance to cancer treatment and prevention
• Funding Texas-based companies and companies willing to relocate to Texas that are most likely to bring important products to the marketplace
• Providing funding that promotes the translation of research at Texas institutions into startup companies able to compete in the marketplace

Who Reviews Your Grant Application?
• Peer review panels comprised of prominent experts that live and work outside of Texas, selected for their distinguished expertise in the field of cancer research or prevention
• Review Councils comprised of the chairs of each peer review committee
Grants Funded

- CPRIT has funded 1,585 awards since 2010, totaling $2,669,361,670
- Recipients of CPRIT awards included 115 academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and private companies all located in Texas

Current Product Development Portfolio Mix

Further details about CPRIT Product Development Research are available on their website [here](#).

Apply

Learn more about the grants process [here](#) before applying for funding [here](#).
The UTSA SBDC Technology Commercialization Center (TCC) promotes innovation and entrepreneurship by providing confidential management advisory services at no-cost for high-tech entrepreneurs, scientific researchers, startups and established businesses pursuing innovations and/or technology development.

TCC services focus on clients throughout the state of Texas that have products and services that are based in science, technology, engineering, and life sciences; innovative; high-risk; and scalable.

Program Highlights

Resources

- SBIR/STTR Resources
- Defense Innovation
- Intellectual Property Resources
- SBDC Market Research
- Startup Resources
- Capital Investment Resources

Texas Federal Innovation and Technology Transfer Program (Texas-FITT)

- Provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small technology firms to increase their participation and award success in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs
- Enhances market commercialization opportunities for new and advanced technologies
- Focused on:
  1. Improving access to high-risk capital for commercialization of advanced technologies
  2. Building & growing the capacity of the ecosystem to enhance the capability for science & technology-based innovation, competitiveness, & scalability
  3. Reaching the state of Texas with the goal of increasing the number of SBIR/STTR submissions, number of SBIR/STTR awards, and diversity of applicants
- Advisory services include SBIR/STTR Submission Assistance, Proposal Workshops, Training & Entrepreneurial Education, Proposal Review & Preparation Resources, One-on-One Consulting & Business Advising, Networking, Assess Results, and Plan On Follow-on Strategies
South-Texas Innovation Partnership Program (S-TIPP)

- Leverages federal and state resources with academia, university, and collaborative business resources to build dynamic and regionally responsive innovation clusters
- Goals:
  1. Cultivate and develop regionally responsive innovation node
  2. Build the public and private capacity needed to foster innovation
  3. Catalyze invention and provide support for the commercialization of new products and services

Further details about UTSA SBDC TCC are available on their website [here](#).

Apply

Follow the instructions [here](#) to schedule an appointment with UTSA SBDC TCC and inquire about applying to the above programs, or call (210) 458-2740.