

WHY SUPPORT IE?



"I'm proud that The University of Texas at Austin is home to the Intellectual Entrepreneurship consortium (IE). Since 1997, the consortium has strived to live out the highest ideals of academic life. Whether helping students find their true passion, exposing first-generation college students to the world of graduate studies, or enabling students to better serve society, the consortium has touched the lives of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members in profound ways. I look forward to seeing how this initiative continues to inform our national dialogue about the role of higher education in society, and I encourage the support of this important work."

Bill Powers, University of Texas President



"IE accomplishes what we all want for college students at a large university -- it creates intimacy while still leveraging the awesome capabilities of a global institution. IE is intentional instead of rote. IE is core without being formulaic. IE is a refined product we can export for the benefit of public higher education everywhere."

Paul W. Hobby, UT (J.D. '85), Outstanding Young Alumnus, CEO, Alpheus Communications, Inc. and Managing Partner, Genesis Park LP



“As a Distinguished Alumnus, civic leader, and member of UT’s Commission of 125 (a group of citizens convened to express a vision of how The University of Texas can best serve Texas and society), I have been a fan of UT’s Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) for many years. I strongly encourage Texas Exes and other members of the community wishing to support UT’s efforts to leverage knowledge for the betterment of society to contribute to IE’s innovative initiatives. Imagine if students could discover their lives’ true passion and commitments, and from the very beginning design their education to pursue that path. IE gives students this opportunity. Coupled with UT’s world-class teaching and research, IE provides a dynamic approach to education, enabling students to transform themselves and the world at the same time. IE already has served over 5,000 students. Contributing to IE is investment in Texas’ most precious resource: its students.”

Melinda Perrin (BS ‘69), Former Chair of the Hermann Hospital Board of Trustees and UT Distinguished Alumnus (2012)



“I fully concur with Melinda Perrin: ‘UT’s Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) provides a dynamic approach to education, enabling students to transform themselves and the world at the same time.’ IE is a compelling demonstration of UT’s slogan, ‘What Starts Here Changes the World.’ At a time when our nation’s top tier research universities are being challenged, IE stands as a powerful example of how prudent changes to improve higher education are being made at UT—changes that preserve and enhance the institution’s academic integrity and core values. I enthusiastically second Melinda’s call for UT Exes and members of the community to invest in IE.”

Gordon Appleman, UT (B.A., ‘59), Distinguished Alumnus, Former President of the Board of Directors of The University of Texas Foundation and the Ex-Student’s Association, past Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Chancellor’s Council of The University of Texas System, and Secretary and Treasurer of the Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education



"IE is a concept that empowers the intellectual entrepreneurial student with significant control over the education they want and need. It overcomes the evolved bureaucracy and calcified procedures that resist change and innovation within higher education. It is not often popular with faculty members and administrators to propose change to the way things are being done, but it is out of change that new ways of looking at old methods and assumptions emerge. Norman Hackerman, former President of UT, once said: 'We have to stop educating people for one profession and start educating them for five or six changes in their professions over their lifetimes.' Professor Cherwitz has recognized the truth in that observation and has tirelessly sought to provide new university education systems that enable that sort of lifetime coping preparation of students. In so doing, he has brought attention and credit to the University as a leader in innovative thinking and action on this subject."

Curtis Meadows Jr., UT (B.B.A. '60, J.D. '62), Distinguished Alumnus, Emeritus Director of the Meadows Foundation and Chair of the advisory council for the LBJ School's RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service.



"As an alumni volunteer for over 35 years, I have had many opportunities to learn about academic programs at UT-Austin and other Tier One campuses around the country. The Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) stands out for its unique approach, its commitment to excellence, and its outstanding results. Prof. Cherwitz and his colleagues in IE have inspired hundreds of UT students, including many first-generation college scholars, to pursue their studies to the post-graduate level. On a campus that regularly qualifies as one of the nation's largest in terms of the size of the student body, UT's IE program keeps education "personal" with individual attention and mentoring for students. Texas Exes and other friends of the University are justifiably proud of UT - here is one more example in which UT leads the way."

John Adkins, UT (B.A. '73, J.D. '77), Former President of the Texas Exes and Member of UT's Alumni Association Executive Committee



"As a member of the UT Board of Regents overseeing 15 campuses, and someone genuinely interested in constructive innovations in higher education, I am a true fan of UT's Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE). For over 15 years, IE has proven that it is possible to implement significant educational reforms at top-tier universities without diluting or altering their research mission. In fact, IE has enhanced that mission by engaging students in research and then helping them leverage their knowledge for social good. In the words of its founder and director, Professor Rick Cherwitz, IE "educates

citizen-scholars." I am especially impressed with IE's unique capacity to increase diversity—especially in an era where race neutral programs may become the norm—by providing all students with opportunities to discover their passion and then directly connect their education to personal, career and professional aspirations. At a time when parents, legislators, and governing boards search for ways to create more "bang for the buck" in higher education, IE is a model worth imitating. It comes as no surprise to me that so many university chancellors and presidents across the country enthusiastically endorse IE. To their voices I add my own and encourage the support of all those desiring our nation's great universities to educate more students able to address society's complex challenges and meet the country's workforce needs."

R. STEVEN "STEVE" HICKS, Vice Chairman of the University of Texas System Board of Regents, Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, and owner/Executive Chairman of Capstar Partners, LLC.



"The Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) at The University of Texas at Austin is re-envisioning the nature of higher education in the 21st century. IE aims to provide a structure for students to take charge of their educational experience, promote diversity in higher education, foster learning across disciplinary boundaries, and generate collaborations between the academy and the greater community. Through its commitment to maximizing the potential of both the university and its students to advance knowledge while also strengthening and enriching Texas communities, IE is making a contribution of immeasurable value to

the Lone Star State. I wish programs such as IE that care about stimulating minds were around when I was a student at UT. I may have remained there as opposed to transferring to that school down Highway 6. IE is indeed changing the future for many one mind at a time."

Dawanna Dukes, Texas House of Representatives (District 46)



"Much of today's higher education reform discussion emphasizes student deficits and remedial education, but IE builds on students' strengths and focuses on demystifying the pursuit of higher education, stimulating student curiosity, and increasing engaged learning. IE provides the means for students and faculty to pursue critical questions, unlimited by the traditional boundaries of disciplines and degree programs, and search for real answers to improve our world. By recognizing scholarship can serve society while enhancing the

academy, IE appeals to students who are committed to serving their communities. Look at the large number of Latino students drawn to doctoral education through the IE Pre Graduate Internship and you see the power and promise IE offers higher education. It's a model that works and it is time for other colleges and universities to adapt it."

Sarita E. Brown, UT (B.S. '78, M.A. '85) Graduate School and College of Communication Distinguished Alumnus and Excelencia in Education President, Washington DC



"As a member of the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education, I am intimately involved in our state's efforts to increase our college-going population, close the gaps between ethnic and socioeconomic student achievement, and create a 21st century workforce that will ensure our continued growth and prosperity. I am also keenly aware of the need for citizen scholars who value collaborative

problem solving and who are engaged in the betterment of their communities. In fact, I am convinced that participation in the political process has the potential to enrich our lives individually and collectively. All of this, though, requires a structure within which the necessary experiences are available to cultivate such outcomes. The Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Consortium in the Division of Diversity & Community Engagement (DDCE) at the University of Texas at Austin is exactly the type of laboratory that is successfully producing results: creating citizen scholars who are given the opportunity to link their passions with their academic pursuits in a multidisciplinary collaboration in order to affect positive change in their communities. And, in mirroring the changing demographics of Texas, the vast majority of the IE students are minorities, first-to-attend college, and/or low-income students. IE is a model of success that links rigor and relevance, town and gown, as well as theory and real-world

experience. What a difference this can make in the lives of these students and also in the future of our great state.”

Donna Howard Texas House of Representatives (District 48)



“As president/chancellor of five top-tier research universities, I have witnessed firsthand numerous challenges to higher education and a wide array of programs implemented to meet those challenges. I do not exaggerate when I say that The University of Texas’ Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) represents one of, if not the, best initiative. As both a program and philosophy, IE has made significant changes to how we think about and deliver education—and it effectively accomplishes this in a manner preserving and bolstering the

academic rigor of great flagship institutions. Unlike extreme and less thoughtful calls for reform, IE doesn’t seek to alter the mission of research universities or reduce them to places of vocational training. Instead, IE has empowered thousands of students to discover their passion, systematically integrate relevant disciplinary knowledge, and put that knowledge to work for the betterment of themselves and society. Of special note is IE’s record of increasing diversity at a time when we are searching for race neutral methods for doing so. I applaud IE’s philosophy of education (“Discovery, Ownership, and Accountability”), believing it has the potential to shorten students’ time to degree and improve the quality of their education in thoughtful ways. My fondest wish is that IE be imitated by other universities, becoming the norm throughout the country.”

E. Gordon Gee, former President of Ohio State University



“There have been many efforts to reform education in the past decade. One program stands out nationally as a model for re-imagining the Ph.D. and creating engaged scholars: The Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) at The University of Texas at Austin. I recommend it to you—I think it is the model.”

Earl Lewis, President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



“As a UT Alum, I am constantly amazed by the IE program and the students and mentors the program produces. The result of combining the creativity and flexibility of entrepreneurship with the intellectualism and scholarship of "the academy" is truly innovative and needs as much support as possible! The results of the program speak for itself and IE needs to be expanded. Not a day goes by that I don't wish that IE had been around when I was at the University of Texas. I came into UT at 17 years old and green as a blade of grass when it came to college and what I wanted to do with my life. I believe a program like IE would have further enriched my university experience and enhanced my career options. It would have exposed me to graduate mentors and creative curriculum options. But that was then and this is now. IE is on campus now and produces great results.

Entrepreneurship is a philosophy, one of creative thinking, spotting opportunities that others don't, and dismantling the wall of the 'things aren't done that way' kind of thinking. In the business world, there would be no Apple, Facebook, Google, Dell, Microsoft, and other innovative companies if their founders didn't have an 'entrepreneurial mindset.' Given, the challenges higher education is facing in terms of funding, undergraduate education, African American and Hispanic student recruitment and retention, recruitment and retention of lower middle class and working class White students, accusations of increasing irrelevancy, shifting demographics, research vs. teaching, curriculum, and a host of other issues, I believe the philosophy of 'Intellectual Entrepreneurship' is and will be the source of innovation for higher education.”

Deone Wilhite, UT (B.B.A '84), Office of Travis County Commissioner Ron Davis, Precinct 1 and Founding Member, National Black MBA Association - Austin Chapter



"The field of higher education is going through a major transformation as we are being called to prepare graduates who can lead in a global arena where the only constant is change. We are fortunate that the Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Consortium has provided us with an exceptional model for producing graduates who will be ready to serve in this leadership role. The Consortium helps institutions to live up to the promise of helping all students, including first generation students and students of color, find their passion and become entrepreneurs in bringing about innovative solutions to address our global needs. I greatly support

the work of the IE Consortium and encourage others to be part of this exceptional initiative. If we as a society want to see this transformation lead towards greater good, then we must remain committed towards supporting the Consortium as it fulfills its mission."

Ricardo Romo, UT Austin (BS Education '67), President of the University of Texas at San Antonio (1999-present), and UT Distinguished Alumnus (2008)



"It is difficult for students to follow their passions and realize their dreams when their vision of what constitutes an education is limited to dry concept of majors, degrees, and traditional notions of success. Many students are often dissuaded by loving family members and friends from studying subjects that interest them because "that major will never pay" or "you'll be in school forever." This is especially true for minority and first-generation college students who are often pushed into conventional post-graduate studies such as law and medical school because these studies supposedly offer greater chances for a financial stable future. Unfortunately, this mind set has the potential of unraveling a student's academic career. Without interest or motivation, a student is at increased risk for failure.

Therefore, programs are desperately needed to broaden the perspectives of minority and first-generation college students. Students must see and experience the possibility of a successful and prosperous future beyond conventional areas of study. They need to know that their interests and passions matter and that their unique perspective and contributions will make the world a better place. The Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Program at the University of Texas is a fascinating and tremendously successful program that addresses these very issues. By removing the "tunnel vision" of traditional notions of success, students have a broader perspective of the opportunities available in the real world. By interacting with mentors, they become informed and empowered. Students recognize that if the mentor could do it, so can they. With a broader perspective and a realization of available options, students can make educated decisions about their own futures. Students desperately need a sense of ownership of their educational experiences. They need to know that their ideas, opinions and passions matter, and it is through programs such as this one that students can truly succeed."

Juliet K. Stipeche, UT (J.D. '99), District VIII, Second Vice President for the Board of Trustees of the Houston Independent School District and attorney (Nagorny & Stipeche, P.C)



"UT's Intellectual Entrepreneurship project (IE) leads nationally, especially in attracting a diverse student population to the critical areas of science and technology. IE provides best practices in mentorship and research, leading the way in meeting the challenge of preparing an educated workforce to meet the needs of the 21st century."

Stanford University President John Hennessy



“A key to the success of the Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) program is that it is designed to encourage students to be responsible for their ongoing education and for creating the means to pay back by contributing to a better future. The students selected for this program - 72% of IE participants are first generation, underrepresented, or economically disadvantaged, and over 70% are women – are precisely those students who need the experiences IE offers in order to become leaders themselves.”

Betty Sue Flowers, UT Distinguished Alumnus (2002), former director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, and professor emeritus (Department of English)



"One of the most promising programs I see coming out of UT Austin, that has the ability to really change students' lives for the better, is the Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) program headed up by Dr. Rick Cherwitz. The fact that so many other major universities are now emulating it, says a lot."

Harden Wiedemann (Harvard College and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva), Regional Director of Alpha USA, former Economic Development chief (Texas) and past President of the Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet High School Advisory Board.



“Professor Cherwitz and UT ‘s Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) have been bringing entrepreneurial principles and practices to learning for years and with an extremely high rate of success. But they have done so with an important and compelling twist. Through IE students work in interdisciplinary teams to work on real world solutions in the community in real time with measurable and highly compelling outcomes—all of this while still fully immersed in their university education. There is no attempt to impose knowledge on how to become an entrepreneur. They simply practice it and consequently bring the university into full collaboration with other

sectors. Having been in higher education administration for 30 years, I can attest to the fact that the IE approach not only is innovative, but it also is revolutionary. It demonstrates that these big battleships -- America's large research universities -- can indeed be turned in new strategic directions. More important, IE is a vehicle for concentrating the enormous collective brainpower of students and faculty on matters of clear societal concern. This is a serious breakthrough."

Johnnie Ray, Associate Vice President for University Advancement at the University of Colorado, former CEO & President of the Arizona State University Foundation, and Vice President for Resource Development at the University of Texas



"One of the best ways to improve diversity in higher education is to improve education for all students while focusing on each student's unique strengths, instead of his or her weaknesses. Part of UT's Division for Diversity and Engagement, the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) does exactly that. Its crown jewel, the Pre Graduate School Mentorship Program, for example, does this by demystifying higher education and helping students identify and pursue their passions. More than 5,000 UT students have benefitted from IE, and the consortium's innovative, results-driven approach has been recognized repeatedly, including with the Examples of

Excelencia Award and the National Diversity Council's Diversity FIRST Award. IE's multidisciplinary approach offers students access to outstanding faculty and resources from throughout the UT community, enhances research and teaching, and improves the relationship between higher education and the rest of society. Whenever I speak to young people, I tell them that I don't want them to be like me or to match my accomplishments; I want them to be significantly better and to surpass my accomplishments. IE provides students with an excellent foundation to achieve that goal."

Judith Zaffirini, Texas Senator (B.S. M.A. Ph.D.)