Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu) is the home of WashU entrepreneurship.

Mission

The Skandalaris Center aims to inspire and develop creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship at Washington University in St. Louis.

Who We Serve

We work with the best and brightest at WashU — the change makers, thought leaders, and visionaries — to solve the world's problems and meet local needs through innovation and entrepreneurship. As an interdisciplinary center, our initiatives serve students, faculty, staff, and alumni from all levels and disciplines.

Our Initiatives

We develop programs for WashU entrepreneurs, creatives, innovators, and scholars. Our commitment to interdisciplinary innovation and entrepreneurship is motivated by the following beliefs:

- Everyone can be creative. We provide hands-on experiences and the creative means to solve problems.
- Innovation is the backbone of entrepreneurship. Our opportunities are designed to develop and share new ideas while connecting with other WashU entrepreneurs and innovators.
- Good ideas are one opportunity away from success. Our programs are created to help WashU entrepreneurs and innovators access the resources they need to take their ideas to the next level.
- Knowledge and skills are key to innovation and entrepreneurship. Our Center offers events and opportunities to help our community of WashU entrepreneurs, creatives, and innovators learn the ins and outs of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Programs

- **Global Impact Award (GIA)** (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/global-impact-award/)
  The GIA awards WashU-affiliated ventures with inventions, products, ideas, and business models that will have a broad and lasting impact on society.
  - **Who Can Apply:** WashU students, postdocs, residents, and alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years
  - **Award:** Up to $50,000

- **The Hatchery** (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/hatchery/)
  The Hatchery is a course offered by Olin Business School that allows student teams to pursue their own business ideas or to support community entrepreneurs. Students form teams around a commercial or social venture idea proposed by a student or community entrepreneur. The deliverables for the course include two presentations to a panel of judges and a complete business plan; these are similar to the deliverables in the Skandalaris Center’s business plan competitions and can be a valuable first step toward competitions and funding for a new venture.

- **Honors in Innovation & Entrepreneurship** (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/honors-in-innovation-and-entrepreneurship/)
  Students who have shown exemplary involvement in innovation and entrepreneurship during their time at Washington University are recognized through this program. Honors are earned by accumulating points through a combination of curricular and cocurricular activities.

- **IdeaBounce** (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/ideabounce/)
  IdeaBounce® is both an online platform and an event for sharing venture ideas and making connections. This is an opportunity for participants to pitch their ideas (no matter how "fresh"), get feedback on them, and make connections. In-person events happen around twice per semester.

- **Innovation Conversations** (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/innovation-conversations/)
  These interactive discussions showcase different topics and industries with a variety of creators, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

- **LEAP (Leadership and Entrepreneurial Acceleration Program)** (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/leap/)
  LEAP is a hybrid virtual incubator and gap funding program designed to tackle opportunities in university technology commercialization, illuminate investment risk, and rapidly accelerate the development of validated projects.
  - **Who Can Apply:** Any person or team with WashU intellectual property
  - **Award:** Up to $50,000
• NSF Skandalaris I-Corps (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/nsf-i-corps/)
This is an experiential entrepreneurship program that supports scientists seeking to commercialize technology and engages experienced entrepreneurs as mentors to help teams transform an idea into a viable technology company.

• PhD Citation in Entrepreneurship (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/entrepreneurship-citation/)
This program provides opportunities for PhD students who are interested in developing skills and experiences in the areas of entrepreneurship and innovation.

• Resources (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/resources/)
The Skandalaris Center, Washington University, and external services and resources are available to support innovators and entrepreneurs.

• Simon Initiative (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/the-simon-initiative/)
The Simon Initiative is a multistage collaborative initiative to expand diversity and interdisciplinary approaches to entrepreneurship.

• Skandalaris Startup Webinars (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/skandalaris-startup-webinars/)
These webinars provide an exciting way for alumni to reconnect and share their experiences with entrepreneurship.

• Skandalaris Venture Competition (SVC) (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/svc/)
The SVC provides expert mentorship to new ventures and startups to ready them for commercializing their ideas, launching, and pitching to investors. Teams will develop materials focused on explaining the ideas that they are working on to a broad audience.
  • Who Can Apply: Current Washington University students with an early-stage venture or idea
  • Award: Up to $22,500

• St. Louis Entrepreneurial Fellowship (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/fellowship/)
This year-long program gives WashU students a chance to explore entrepreneurship at WashU and in St. Louis. The experience includes a spring semester seminar that explores innovation and entrepreneurship, a 10-week paid summer internship at a St. Louis startup, a fall semester capstone project, professional development opportunities, and programs and events to engage with entrepreneurs, founders, and innovators.

• Student Entrepreneurial Program (STEP) (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/sc-programs/step/)
STEP provides a unique opportunity for students to own and operate a business on campus that serves the WashU community. Student owners can supplement the valuable business and entrepreneurial skills they learn in the classroom while gaining real-world experience as they manage and lead their own businesses.

Learn More

Please contact the Skandalaris Center (https://skandalaris.wustl.edu/get-connected/) to sign up for our newsletter and for additional information about all programs.

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