EIC MEMBER DIRECTORY

The Economic Impact Committee (EIC) is focused on strengthening and supporting UMD's innovation, entrepreneurship, economic development and inclusive growth ecosystem.

Formed in 2017, the EIC convenes quarterly meetings and brings together over 30 campus innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development units and their directors to foster a more collaborative and integrated community.

Alphabetical List of EIC Members

Unit: Academy for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Unit: AGNR Academic Programs Office
Unit: Alumni Association Events & Professional Programs
Unit: Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland (AIM)
Unit: Arts for All
Unit: Capital of Quantum
Unit: Center for Social Value Creation (CSVC)
Unit: Center for Global Business
Unit: Chesapeake Bay Seed Capital Fund (CBSCF)
Unit: Computing Catalyst
Unit: Dingman-Lamone Center for Entrepreneurship
Unit: Discovery District
Unit: Do Good Institute
Unit: Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets
Unit: Institute for Health Computing
Unit: Maryland APEX Accelerator
Unit: Maryland Business Opportunity Center (MBOC)
Unit: Maryland Energy Innovation Institute (MEI2)
Unit: Maryland Innovation Energy Innovation Accelerator
Unit: Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network
Unit: Mid-Atlantic I-Corps and UMD I-Corps
Unit: Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance (MQA) & Strategic Research Initiatives
Unit: Mid-Atlantic Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)
Unit: Mixed/Augmented/Virtual Reality Innovation Community (MAVRIC)
Unit: Mokhtarzada Hatchery
Unit: Mtech Ventures
Unit: Office of Innovation
Unit: Office of Experiential Learning (OEL)
Unit: Public Health Science

Unit: Quantum Startup Foundry (QSF)
Unit: Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC)
Unit: Real Estate Development Program
Unit: Research Development Capture Management
Unit: Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices
Unit: Small Business Anti-Displacement Network (SBAN)
Unit: Startup Shell
Unit: Southern Management Leadership Program (SMLP)
Unit: Terrapin Development Company (TDC)
Unit: UM Ventures - College Park
Unit: USMSM - A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland
Unit: Office of Research and Economic Development
Unit: UMD Libraries - Administration
Unit: xFoundry@UMD
Unit: University Corporate Relations

Alphabetical Descriptions of EIC Members

Unit: Academy for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Provost's Office

Mission: To engage the UMD community in design and innovation to build their capacity as change makers and creative problem solvers in their fields.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- IDEA Courses
- Asynchronous Innovation Tools & Mindset Training
- Innovation Fellowship
- National Orchestral Institute + Festival
- Teaching & Learning Studio

EIC Representatives:
- Erica Estrada-Liou, Interim Executive Director
- Brooke Smith, Assistant Program Director
- Mira Azarm, Innovation Instigator & Learning Experience Catalyst
- Christina Hnatov, Learning Experience Catalyst
- Nick Ocasio, Community Manager
- Diana Rivera, Assistant Designer

Unit: [AGNR Academic Programs Office](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: [College of Agriculture & Natural Resources](#)

Mission: The mission of the College of AGNR's Academic Programs office is to cultivate personal, academic, and professional development and success in all of our students- future, current and alumni- through promoting excellence in academics and advising, fostering a strong sense of belonging, and encouraging student participation in extracurricular opportunities.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Discovery and Innovation Night:](#) This signature event brings together AGNR students, faculty, staff, alumni, and industry professionals for an evening of connecting. During the AGNR student experience showcase our students have the opportunity to show off the impactful experiences they have taken advantage of outside of the classroom (internships, study abroad, research, etc.).

EIC Representative:
- [Sarah Balcom](#), Principle Lecturer and Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, College of AGNR

Unit: Alumni Association Events & Professional Programs

Sponsoring School/College/Division: [University of Maryland Alumni Association](#)

Mission: We inspire lifelong connections with a global network of Maryland alums.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Celebration of EnTERPreneurship
- EnTERPreneur Conference
- [EnTERPreneur Network](#) & Newsletter
- [EnTERPreneur's LinkedIn Group](#)
- [Resources for Business Owners](#)
- [TENx UMD EnTERPreneur Stories](#)
- [Terp Business Directory](#)
- [Terp Business Spotlight](#)
- Terrapins Connect for EnTERPreneurs

EIC Representative:
- [Christine Kunkel](#), Program Director of Events and Professional Programs

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Unit: [Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland (AIM)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

Mission: Brings together AI experts across campus to focus on responsible, ethical development and use of the technology to advance public good in industry, government and society. Students across all majors will learn the principles of AI and how they apply to their field of study, preparing them for an AI-infused workforce.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:

- New AI majors and minors
- AI certificates, graduate degrees and workforce development programs
- Expanded AI undergraduate courses, including a path to AI course focused on developing AI literacy and critical thinking skills
- AI government and industry partnerships and community events
- A new high-performance computing cluster tailored for AI's complex computational challenges
- Financial support to promote interdisciplinary AI research
- Chaired professorships and postdoctoral fellowships

EIC Representative:
- [Hal Daumé III](#), AIM Director // Volpi-Cupal Endowed Professor of Computer Science and Language Science
- [Sheena Erete](#), AIM Associate Director of Research // Associate Professor in the College of Information

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Unit: [Arts for All](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: College of Arts & Humanities

Mission: The Arts for All initiative partners the arts with the sciences, technology and other disciplines to develop new and reimagined curricular and experiential offerings that nurture different ways of thinking to spark dialogue, understanding, problem solving and action. It bolsters a campus-wide culture of creativity and innovation, making Maryland a national leader in leveraging the combined power of the arts, technology and social justice to collaboratively address grand challenges.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Arts Improve the Student Experience

- Arts Create an Inclusive Environment
- Arts Advance the University

EIC Representative:
- [Craig Kier](#), Director and Maryland Opera Studio Advisor
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Unit: [Capital of Quantum](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: University of Maryland

Mission: To grow Maryland's regional quantum ecosystem.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Quantum at UMD](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Corey Stambaugh](#), Director

Unit: [Center for Social Value Creation (CSVC)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Robert H. Smith School of Business

Mission: To educate, engage, and empower the Smith community and the world to create a better world through Business

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Impact Consulting Fellowship](#)
- [Case Competitions](#)
- Thought leadership - [State of Environmental and Social Value Creation (ESVC) Report](#)
- [ESG and Creating Values Conferences](#)
- [Speaker Events](#) and [Fireside Chats](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Nima Farshchi](#), Director
- [Stephanie Cantor](#), Strategic Consultant

Unit: [Center for Global Business](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Robert H. Smith School of Business

Mission: The Center for Global Business (CGB) is the home of the Title VI CIBE grant at the University of Maryland and the driver of international business and global mindset education at the Smith School. CGB serves as a national resource for international commerce in the state of Maryland, specifically in regard to training and preparing students, companies, and current and future business leaders to compete successfully in the global market.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Maryland Global Consulting Program](#)
- [US Market Entry Consulting Program](#)
- [Maximizing Maryland Business Internship Program](#)
- Careers Crossing Borders
- Global Summer Internship Program

EIC Representative:
- [Rebecca Bellinger,](#) Executive Director of Center for Global Business

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Unit: [Chesapeake Bay Seed Capital Fund (CBSCF)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Mtech/A. James Clark School of Engineering & UMCP Ventures

Mission: to invest in Maryland-based companies with innovative solutions that can help improve air and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Climate Tech Exchange](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Scott Christensen](#), Manager of Mtech Ventures and CBSCF
- [Stan Smith](#), Director of Venture Investments

Unit: [Computing Catalyst](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: College of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Mission: The Computing Catalyst cultivates an inclusive computing community at the University of Maryland. A unit in the [Department of Computer Science](#) with support from the [University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies](#) and the [College of Information](#), the Catalyst is a team of full-time staff, graduate assistants and student staff. The organization supports all UMD computing majors and local K-12 students through mentoring, scholarships, professional development and community-building programs.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Career Launch](#)
- [Conference Scholarships](#)
- [Mentoring Program](#)
- [RESET Project](#)
- [Sprinternship](#)
- [Tech + Research](#)
- [TechStart](#)

EIC Representative:
- [Kristina Kramarczuk](#), Associate Director
- [Caitlin Rudy](#), Program Manager, Industry Partnerships

Unit: [Dingman-Lamone Center for Entrepreneurship](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Robert H. Smith School of Business

Mission: Educate, Empower and Elevate student entrepreneurs

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Pitch Dingman Competition
- Dingman Advising
- Terp Startup Accelerator
- Terp Startup Fellows
- eFund
- Terp Marketplace

[Information about Dingman programs and events including where students can sign up at this link.](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Michael Hoffmeyer](#), Managing Director
- [Tsega Tadesse](#), Director of Venture Development
- [Stan Smith](#), Director of Venture Investments
- [Lottie Byram](#), Assistant Director of Community Programs
- [Sadia Alao](#), Outreach and Programs Coordinator

Unit: [Discovery District](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: The University of Maryland's research park brings together a vibrant and inclusive community of university stakeholders, corporate partners, government researchers, entrepreneurs, and local residents to activate fearless ideas for transformational impact by fostering research and industry partnerships, supporting small businesses, and nurturing the growth of next generation technology ventures.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Co-working space, Class A commercial space, and Mixed Use R&D space
- Event space (The Hall CP and The Hotel at UMD)

EIC Representatives:
- [Dean Chang](), Chief Innovation Officer and Associate Vice President for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
- [Sammy Popat](), Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Catalyst

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Unit: [Do Good Institute]()

Sponsoring School/College/Division: School of Public Policy

Mission: The Do Good Institute offers hands-on experiences, funding opportunities, engaging curriculum, and effective programs that prepare Terps with the skills, experiences and resources to Do Good throughout their lives.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Do Good Challenge]()
- [Accelerator Fellows]()
- [Impact Interns]()
- [ChangeMaker Pathways]()
- [Mini-Grants]()
- [Scale Your Impact]()

EIC Representatives:
- [Robert Grimm, Jr.](), Professor of the Practice; Levenson Family Chair in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership; DGI Director
- [Sara Yousefnejad Gallagher](), Associate Director
- [James Stillwell](), Faculty Director, Do Good Campus, DGI and Associate Clinical Professor
- [Katlin Gray](), Lecturer; Senior Program Manager
- [Kisha McNeill](), Accelerator Manager
- [Juliana White](), Program Associate

Unit: [Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Robert H. Smith School of Business

Mission: The guiding principle for the Ed Snider Center is that social progress is born of free and creative individuals who, driven by self-motivation, passion, and a positive approach to trading value for value, make the world a better place. The center's mission is to connect this vision with a purpose: to create world-class inter-disciplinary research for an understanding of institutions promoting enterprise, and to reach beyond academic walls through teaching and engagement to make scholarly research relevant for students, business practitioners, and the public.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Ed Snider Center Leadership Award](#)
- [Enterprise Through Literature](#)
- [The Intentional Life Lab](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Snider Consulting Group (SCG)](#)
- [Snider Enterprise and Leadership Fellows (SELF)](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Jacqueline Manger](#), Managing Director, Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets

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Unit: [Institute for Health Computing](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: College of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Mission: The University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing (UM-IHC) is a strategic initiative that aims to improve well-being and quality of life, diminish disease, and enhance health outcomes for all citizens of Maryland and beyond.

The UM-IHC merges top-tier computational expertise and biomedical research with a vast and geographically diverse clinical care network into a force for health care innovation.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Research](#)
- [Education & Research Training](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Adam Porter](#), Co-Executive Director

Unit: [Maryland APEX Accelerator](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission:
- The Maryland APEX Accelerator opened its doors in 2002 to expand the number of businesses capable of participating in government contracting. The APEX Accelerator Center is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense. The APEX Accelerator provides businesses with an understanding of the requirements of government contracting and the market know-how they need to obtain and successfully perform federal, state, and local government contracts. It also supports government agencies in reaching and working with the suppliers they need.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:

- **Counseling Services** - Maryland APEX Accelerator's procurement specialists provide in-person and virtual counseling to help small businesses and government contractors succeed. Get expert guidance on government contracting at no cost, just support for your growth!
- **Training Services** - Explore upcoming workshops, webinars, and conferences for government contractors. Hosted online and across the region by Maryland APEX Accelerator, local partners, and government agencies. Stay informed and grow your business!
- **Bid Matching Services** - Our Electronic Bid Matching service will save your company valuable time and money by locating federal, state, local, and foreign bid opportunities and delivering them to you daily by e-mail. This service is for MDAPEX Accelerator clients only.
- **Get Help with SAM** - We help companies register and update their SAM information every day. Our specialists are well-versed in how SAM works and can guide you through the process quickly and efficiently

EIC Representatives:
- [Denise Warner](#), Director

Unit: [Maryland Business Opportunity Center (MBOC)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission:
- Supported by the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC), MBOC is about creating opportunities and making entrepreneurship accessible to everyone with a focus on small business enterprises owned and controlled by undercapitalized individuals and very small businesses. **Our primary goal is to empower underserved**

entrepreneurs to overcome their unique challenges and foster more significant equity and inclusivity within the small business ecosystem.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:

- [**Services**](#) **-** We offer business planning, market research and analysis, financial management, marketing strategies, succession planning, operational efficiency, and process improvement. We work one-on-one to assess and analyze your small business's finances, operations, and structure to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- [**Resources**](#) **including Subject Matter Experts**
- [**Maryland's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)**](#) **-** A federally funded program designed to offer crucial loans and investments to the Maryland's small businesses. Aimed at providing ongoing support during the pandemic, this initiative opens doors to capital for businesses facing challenges due to social, geographic, and economic factors.

EIC Representatives:
- [Arthur Toole III](#), MBA, Program

Unit: [Maryland Energy Innovation Institute](#) [(MEI^2)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: A. James Clark School of Engineering

Mission: The Maryland Energy Innovation Institute (MEI^2) provides a platform to catalyze basic research into new technology while stimulating economic growth and improving millions of lives across the state of Maryland. The Institute brings together science, industry, government and economic leaders to develop solutions to global and local energy problems and facilitate the transfer of technology and resources to the public in addition to transitioning the research into [marketable products](#) and services through locally based entrepreneurial ventures.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Expertise](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Eric Wachsman, Ph.D](#).: Director, Maryland Energy Innovation Institute; William L. Crentz Centennial Chair in Energy Research; Distinguished University Professor; Current Past-President, Electrochemical Society; National Academy of Inventors

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Unit: [Maryland Innovation Energy Innovation Accelerator](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Maryland Clean Energy Center

Mission: The Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator ("MEIA") was created in 2019 by the [Maryland Clean Energy Center](#) ("MCEC"). MCEC has an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy, and energy efficiency products, services and technologies. MEIA's mission is to create investable clean energy businesses. An investable business has the momentum and credibility to obtain third party investment to grow its operations and launch/grow its business.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Pre-Accelerator](#)
- [Launchpad](#)
- [Accelerator](#)
- [Technology-2-Market Services](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Ben Margolis](#), Director
- [Mike Ducker](#), Ecosystem Manager

Unit: [Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC)](#) Network

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: The SBDC Network is a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, the State of Maryland and the University of Maryland, College Park. SBDC links private enterprise, government, higher education and local economic development organizations to provide high-quality training, confidential consulting and market and industry research to Maryland's small businesses. Strengthening Maryland's small businesses contributes directly to the growth of local, state and national economies.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Consulting](#)
- [Training](#)
- Access to [Research Platforms](#)
- [Maryland Business Opportunity Center (MBOC)](#)
- Mid-Atlantic [Veterans Business Opportunity Center (VBOC)](#)
- [Maryland APEX Accelerator](#)

EIC Representative:
- [Lora Brown](#), Director, Maryland Small Business Programs

- [Wynne Briscoe](#), VBOC Senior Veterans Business Specialist
- [Jainaba Ceesay,](#) Project DIrector of the SSBCI Credit Repair and Financial Literacy SBOP Program
- [Tina Edwards](#), VBOC Program Director
- [Arthur Toole, III](#), Director, Maryland Business Opportunity Center (MBOC)

Unit: [Mid-Atlantic I-Corps](#) and [UMD I-Corps](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Mtech, A. James Clark School of Engineering

Mission: I-Corps is a National Science Foundation (NSF) program designed to foster, grow, and nurture innovation ecosystems regionally and nationally. The University of Maryland is the lead institution of the [NSF I-Corps Hub: Mid-Atlantic Region](#) and a member of the [National Innovation Network](#). I-Corps provides real world training on how to incorporate innovations into commercially viable companies to solve societal problems. The curriculum is based on the Lean Startup framework, through which researchers can better understand the market potential of an innovation.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- I-Corps Regional Cohorts (roughly every 2 months)
- MD Innovation Extension (Business fundamentals Workshops, EIRs, I-Corps)
- I-Corps Venture Internship

EIC Representatives:
- [Dean Chang](#), Chief Innovation Officer and Associate Vice President for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, Hub Principal Investigator
- [Dan Kunitz](#), Mid-Atlantic I-Corps Hub Director & Maryland Innovation Extension Director, Hub Co-PI
- [David Steele](#), Hub Coordinator, NSF I-Corps Mid-Atlantic Region & Program Manager, UMD I-Corps
- [Jainaba Ceesay](#), UMD I-Corps Instructor & Program Manager

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Unit: [Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance (MQA)](#) & Strategic Research Initiatives

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: The Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance is building an inclusive community that brings together expertise from across academia, industry, government and research laboratories to accelerate innovation across the range of quantum technologies, including [quantum computing](#), [quantum sensing](#), [quantum communications](#) and [quantum materials](#). Such diverse

collaborations are the foundation for a vibrant quantum ecosystem within the region by aligning basic and applied science with real-world needs and requirements, enabling more rapid discovery of creative solutions, and creating the necessary infrastructure and [workforce](#) to scale up quantum technologies.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Technical and Non-Technical Workgroups
- Proposal Team Nucleation
- Networking Events

EIC Representative:
- [John Sawyer](#), Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance; Director, Strategic Research Initiatives

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Unit: [Mid-Atlantic Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Maryland Small Business Programs, Division of Research

Mission: The Mid-Atlantic Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) program is a one-stop shop for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses looking to start, purchase or grow a business. Training opportunities, counseling and mentoring in-person and online, referrals to partners and programs, and most networking events are available at no cost to veterans.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Boots to Business](#)
- [Counseling and Training](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [Tina Edwards](#), Program Director
- [Wynne Briscoe](#), Senior Veterans Business Specialist

Unit: [Mixed/Augmented/Virtual Reality Innovation Community (MAVRIC)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: To catalyze the research and application of immersive media across the campus with an emphasis on projects that leverage the technology for bettering humanity.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Promote XR programs, activities and events across campus and the DMV region

EIC Representative:
- [Sammy Popat](), XR Community Manager

Unit: [Mokhtarzada Hatchery]()

Sponsoring School/College/Division: College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences

Mission: The Mokhtarzada Hatchery was launched in 2021 to help University of Maryland students develop and launch startups. Created by Terps for Terps, the Hatchery provides dedicated working space, seed funding, and mentors to help student entrepreneurs get their fearless ideas and startups into the best shape possible.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Seed Funding
- Working Space
- Mentoring
- Networking
- Demo Day

EIC Representative:
- [Maria Johnson](), Director of Corporate Partnership Development, Department of Computer Science & Program Director, Mokhtarzada Hatchery

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Unit: [Mtech Ventures]()

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Mtech, A. James Clark School of Engineering

Mission: Mtech Ventures is a University of Maryland incubator for technology-based innovations commercialized at the university. Mtech Ventures helps early-stage startups survive the critical period in their development between conducting customer discovery and raising their first round of venture capital. The Mtech Ventures facility offers affordable space and hands-on mentoring for early stage companies.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- 10 wet labs, private offices, and shared coworking desks
- [Startup Guide]()

- [Terrapin Works](#)

EIC Representatives:
- [William Bentley](#), Director of the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute (Mtech), University of Maryland Robert E. Fischell Distinguished Chair of Engineering and the Inaugural Director of the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices.
- [Dan Kunitz](#), Mtech Ventures Director, Mid-Atlantic I-Corps Hub Director & Maryland Innovation Extension Director
- [Rob Cohen](#), Mtech Ventures Program Manager
- [Scott Christensen](#), Manager of Mtech Ventures and CBSCF

Unit: [Office of Innovation](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: To oversee the innovation, entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and technology commercialization enterprise at the University of Maryland by coordinating and leading UMD's innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development ecosystem that 1) helps students and faculty develop their entrepreneurial mindsets to pursue their innovative ideas and inventions, and 2) helps launch and scale startups and social ventures that spur inclusive economic development and impact.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [UM Ventures - College Park](#)
- [Discovery District](#)
- Maryland SBDC
- Economic Impact Committee
- Innovation Gateway

EIC Representatives:
- [Dean Chang](#), Chief Innovation Officer and Associate Vice President for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
- [Sammy Popat](#), Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Catalyst

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Unit: [Office of Experiential Learning (OEL)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Robert H. Smith School of Business

Mission: Creating integrated, interdisciplinary opportunities for our students to solve real-world problems for real-world companies is the cornerstone in the mission of the Office of Experiential

Learning. Through dynamic curriculum innovations, the support of our alumni and business community, and exciting external opportunities, Smith students develop greater resilience, tolerance for ambiguity, critical thinking, and a keen ability to lead the organizations of the future

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Classroom Coaching - A dynamic approach that integrates industry professionals into the classroom setting. The collaborative partnership between industry experts and students allows for active engagement and the bridging of the gap between theory and practice. Examples include: Guest Speakers, Presentation Judges, Team Coaches
- Live Cases - Short Sprints over the course of 1-3 days where students develop strategic business recommendations, by using datasets or prompt(s) given by a company. Students work in small groups and there are multiple groups giving competing suggestions where the company has a variety of solutions to select from.
- Capstone Projects - Semester-long opportunities where graduate and undergraduate students apply and display their problem-solving and critical thinking abilities. They serve as the highest touchpoint opportunities for companies to have a team of 4-6 students give recommendations.

EIC Representative:
- [Nima Farshchi](#), Executive Director

Unit: [Public Health Science](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: School of Public Health

Mission: Public Health Science is a unique interdisciplinary program at the University of Maryland, offering a bachelor of science degree at both our College Park and Universities at Shady Grove campuses. We are proud of our program's incredible diversity, with over sixty percent of our College Park majors and over eighty percent of our Shady Grove majors identifying as women of color. Strongly rooted in the natural sciences and coupled with a broad view of public health, our students use a scientific lens to investigate and propose solutions to today's public health challenges.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Academic Advising and Support
- Degree
- Career Development
- Experiential Learning

EIC Representative:
- [Shannon Edward](#), Experiential Learning Manager

Unit: [Quantum Startup Foundry (QSF)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: Brings together the resources needed—physical and virtual—to support entrepreneurs and startups in accelerating quantum technologies' time to market. QSF brings entrepreneurs together with industry and government customers, investors, technical mentors, leading-edge research and IP, and quantum-specific infrastructure (equipment, tools, facilities). Located inCollege Park MD, in the Washington, DC metro area, QSF offers the perfect landing and launch spot for quantum companies.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Pre-TraQtion
- TraQtion
- Qapital QnneQtions

EIC Representative:
- [Piotr Kulczakowicz](#), Director

Unit: [Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: [National Center for Smart Growth](#)

Mission: The PLCC is an innovative public-private-community collaboration working to leverage Maryland's largest transit investment in the 21st century to ensure equitable growth for all who live, work and invest in the corridor.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- **Convene** - Through a collective action strategy, partner and collaborating organizations are aligning their work plans for coordinated action among government, businesses, philanthropy, nonprofit, and civic organizations.
- **Collaborate** - We use the Community Development Agreement to stimulate innovative collaboration, focus community investment, and plan beyond the tracks to ensure that investments in the Purple Line light rail corridor benefit all who live, work and invest in the corridor.
- **Provide Technical Assistance and** [Reports](#) - Our partners bring expertise in development, financing, civic engagement, data analysis, and more. We develop tools to inform, catalyze and support conversations around transit development and the communities impacted.

- **Research & Tools** - We research best practices and lessons learned from corridor approaches and create informative maps and tools to provide a new look at what's in the corridor, where things are going, potential impacts and opportunities.

EIC Representative:
- Sheila Somashekhar, Director

Unit: Real Estate Development Program

Sponsoring School/College/Division: School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Mission: Maryland's Real Estate Development Program sets the standard in real estate education by offering a highly-flexible, personalized and interdisciplinary curriculum, real-world project work, mentorship and professional opportunities that align with the program's "quadruple bottom line" projects that are financially feasible, environmentally respectful, socially responsible, and sustainably designed.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development
- Undergraduate and Graduate degrees
- Research
- Projects

EIC Representatives:
- Tanya Bansal, Director, Clinical Associate Professor

Unit: Research Development Capture Management

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: To orchestrate the development and execution of capture strategies to secure proposal opportunities from the Federal and related agencies, aligning closely with UMD's strategic initiatives and extensive research capabilities.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Strategic business development
- Capture management
- Translational Research
- Research Innovation

EIC Representatives:

- Patrick Mendez, Ph.D., Director of Research Capture Management

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Unit: Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices

Sponsoring School/College/Division: A. James Clark School of Engineering

Mission: Founded in 2017, the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices' mission is to catalyze the transformation of basic research into clinical practice and commercial success - Advancing the Public Good.

The Institute drives innovation by bringing together scientists and engineers into collaborative space, both physical and virtual, where improvements to health systems can be conceptualized and tried. The Institute has material and intellectual resources. It includes a community of experts who facilitate the full scope of entrepreneurial research activities: prototyping and manufacturing, venture creation, intellectual property creation, and product passage through various clinical, regulatory and reimbursement hurdles.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Fischell Institute Summer Research Internship Program
- Fischell Institute and MPower Entrepreneurship Fellowship
- Expertise
- Facilities
- Foundry

EIC Representative:
- William Bentley, Director of the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute (Mtech), University of Maryland Robert E. Fischell Distinguished Chair of Engineering and the Inaugural Director of the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices.
- Ambi Narula, Communications and Program Specialist

Unit: Small Business Anti-Displacement Network (SBAN)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: National Center for Smart Growth

Mission: The Small Business Anti-Displacement Network is made up of organizations across the U.S. and abroad that work to prevent displacement of BIPOC- and immigrant-owned small businesses in gentrifying neighborhoods. Housed at the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth, SBAN includes policymakers, nonprofit advocates, technical assistance providers, real estate developers, financial institutions, scholars, and small business owners, who share knowledge and collaborate to advance innovative policies and practices that keep small businesses in place.

We work to ensure that small business owners, workers, and residents benefit from new neighborhood investments so they can build greater financial health, wealth, and long-term stability.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Strategies](#)
- [Case Studies](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Toolkit](#)
- [Conference](#)

EIC Representative:
- [Willow Lung](#), SBAN Director, Associate Professor, Urban Studies and Planning, University of Maryland
- [Jamie Shanker-Passero](#), SBAN Program Manager

Unit: [Startup Shell](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: N/A (Loosely A. James Clark School of Engineering and MTech)

Mission: Startup Shell is a student-run startup incubator and co-working space at the University of Maryland. We provide the student entrepreneurship community with the space, resources, and network to explore ideas, collaborate, and scale their ventures.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Free, public events offered to everyone in the UMD entrepreneurship community. See upcoming events at startupshell.org/events.
- 24/7 coworking space in the E.A. Fernandez IDEA Factory
- $100,000 in digital and physical resources to build ventures
- Individual mentorship on any topic needed
- A network of UMD students and alumni whose ventures are worth collectively over $2 billion

EIC Representative:
- [Oliver D'Esposito](#), 2025-2026 Executive Director
- [Arden Lawson](#), Director of Finance

Unit: [Southern Management Leadership Program (SMLP)](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Undergraduate Studies

Mission: The Southern Management Leadership Program is a unique educational model designed specifically for local Maryland students. The program provides scholarships to college students from Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College and the University of Maryland, who have an enthusiasm for seeking leadership roles in the career fields they are most passionate about, and will use their knowledge and skills to make the state of Maryland, and the world, a better place for all.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Generous scholarship support
- 5 courses offered exclusively for SMLP students that enable them to earn the minor in Technology Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation
- Extensive skill-building workshops and networking events
- Strong community formed that eases the transfer process and adjustment to a 4-year institution

EIC Representative:
- Sara Herald, Director

Unit: Terrapin Development Company (TDC)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: University of Maryland, College Park and University of Maryland College Park Foundation

Mission: TDC is a joint venture real estate and economic development entity created by the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland College Park Foundation. TDC's mission is to create long term value for its members while transforming Greater College Park into a vibrant, diverse and walkable community that attracts the best faculty, staff and students, and galvanizes a culture of research and entrepreneurship.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Development Projects

EIC Representative:
- Ken Ulman, President, Terrapin Development Company and Chief Strategy Officer for Economic Development, UMD
- Sarah Miller, Vice President of Economic Development, Terrapin Development Company
- Tanya Haro, Marketing and Programming Associate

Unit: [UM Ventures](#) - College Park

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Research

Mission: The UM Ventures Office at the University of Maryland's College Park serves investigators in the technology transfer and commercialization process. We can help you obtain intellectual property protection, increase your research funding through successful partnerships with business, and realize financial gains with royalty and licensing revenues. Our interdisciplinary team is here to guide your technology through the often confusing technology transfer cycle.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Intellectual Property Protection
- Guidance and Support through the technology transfer process
- Business Fundamentals Workshops

EIC Representatives:
- [Ken Porter](#), Director of UM Ventures
- [Felicia Metz](#), Associate Director
- [Alla McCoy](#), Director of Startup Support
- [Josh Doying](#), Startup Success Manager

Unit: [**USMSM -** A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: A. James Clark School of Engineering

Mission: To offer advanced program options, state-of-the-art hands-on labs, and top-level engineering materials in Southern Maryland.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- Mechanical and Electrical Engineering bachelor completion program entirely on site at USMSM
- [MATRIX Lab](#) - research lab focused on autonomous technologies across all domains and research levels
- Co-location with the [UMD Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Research and Operations Center](#)
- Hub of the [AeroPark Innovation District](#) located at Saint Mary's County Regional Airport (2W6)
- Specific partnerships with the Navy, especially the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), Army Research Lab and other DoD partners, and autonomy/uncrewed systems industry partners such as Blue Halo.

- Largest conference center south of Washington DC in Maryland (~550 person capacity)

EIC Representative:
- [Jamison Watson](#), Assistant Director for Research Development, Clark School of Engineering at USMSM MATRIX Lab

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Unit: [Office of Research and Economic Development](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division:, University System of Maryland (USM)

Mission: The USM Office of Research and Economic Development was founded in 2016 to promote technology commercialization, workforce development, entrepreneurship and partnerships among USM institutions and private and public sector organizations toward the ultimate goal of economic development. We leverage our economic and venture development experience to tackle important issues collaboratively with our stakeholders and ecosystem partners. We are committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion across all of these activities.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [USM Launch Fund](#) A new capital source for entrepreneurs, builders, creators, and innovators, designed to fill gaps and connect to other capital and resources.
- **I-Corps**, which trains entrepreneurs in customer discovery to uncover market potential
- **Maryland Technical Internship Program (MTIP)**, which provides reimbursement for interns
- **Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS)**, which provides funding for university-based research projects that help the companies develop new products.
- **$16M Maryland Momentum Fund**, which invests in USM-related startups
- **TU's StarTUp Accelerator,** which provides mentoring, space, and a $10k prize to accepted ventures
- **SU's Shore Hatchery,** which provides up to $200,000 annually in prize money via fall and spring business plan competitions

EIC Representative:
- [Lindsay Ryan](#), Venture Development Director

Unit: [UMD Libraries - Administration](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: University of Maryland Libraries, Academic Affairs

Mission: UMD Libraries' [Administration](#) handles internal and external administrative matters for the Libraries, providing managerial leadership, strategic planning, resource management, development/fundraising, and direction of the overall operations of the University Libraries.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- See various sections on the Libraries' website, especially: [Latest News](#); [Events](#); [Collaborations & Innovation](#); [Strategic Initiatives](#); [Digital Services & Technologies blog](#);

EIC Representative:
- [David Dahl](#), Associate Dean of Libraries, Digital Services & Technologies (DST)

Unit: [University Career Center & The President's Promise](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of Student Affairs

Mission: Provide education, advising, experiential learning, professional connections, and direct access to opportunities that support career readiness. The Career Center provides comprehensive career assistance for all University of Maryland, College Park students. Designed to support students through each stage of their career development, the Center offers various resources, services, and programs that empower students to pursue their ambitions and navigate a meaningful career journey.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- [Career Advising](#) - Serve students of all majors and academic backgrounds through our programming.
- [Career Courses](#) - There are a number of courses that address different aspects of career development, internship or job search preparation. Some are taught in a classroom setting and others are offered online or asynchronously.
- [Career Exposure](#) - Helps students of ALL majors observe varied industries through many programs throughout the semesters. We also have programs to allow you to connect with UMD alumni working in your field(s) of interest.
- [Employment Support](#) - Provides one-on-one career advising, events, and online resources to help you master every part of the application process.
- [Events](#) - Organizes a wide range of events that expose students of all class levels and academic backgrounds to various career paths

EIC Representative
- [Allynn Powell](#), Director

Unit: [xFoundry@UMD](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Mtech, A. James Clark School of Engineering

Mission: The E. A. Fernandez IDEA Factory serves as a [force multiplier](#) for addressing society's grand challenges, and promotes the values, skills and experiences that great problem-solvers need to do it: innovation, collaboration and creativity; entrepreneurship; and interdisciplinary design. The IDEA Factory is the signature resource within [Maryland's Technology Enterprise Institute](#), widely recognized for catalyzing technology-focused economic growth in the region and nation.

Signature Programs/Events/Offerings:
- **xFoundry:** A new experimental initiative designed for individuals passionate about solving humanity's grand challenges, promoting change, and leaving their mark on the world by building innovative sustainable ventures. At XFoundry, innovation meets excellence, collaboration fuels growth, and every challenge is an opportunity. If you are creative, an excellent problem-solver, resilient, and thrive on collaborating with others, this initiative is perfect for you!
- **Xperience:** Xperience, offered through XFoundry, is an immersive and comprehensive 15-month program designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to excel in their professional careers. We bring together students, faculty, and staff from all the different schools across campus to tackle society's challenges head-on while providing an enriching experience for all those involved. This innovative program opens the door for multidisciplinary collaboration that fosters creative expression, discovery, and critical thinking.
- [**Nexplore 2040**](#) - xFoundry, NASA, Amazon, and others to bring together pioneers, visionaries, and creatives across Technology, Entrepreneurship, Arts & Athletics, Marketing, and Science (TEAMS) to explore how collaboration across disciplines can shape the future of space exploration by 2040.

EIC Representatives:
- [Amir Ansari](#), Co-Founder and Inaugural Executive Director
- [Phillip Alvarez](#), Associate Director of Ventures, Projects, and Partnerships
- [Alison Waldman](#), Associate Program Director
- [Jasmine Kelly](#), Associate Director, Academic Programs
- [Isabella (Izzy) Laurel](#), Associate Director of Marketing
- [Alex Onufrak](#), Associate Director of Technology Services

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Unit: [University Corporate Relations](#)

Sponsoring School/College/Division: Division of University Relations

Mission: The Office of Corporate Relations is focused on building and managing strategic partnerships with businesses and industry groups. The University and its corporate partners will drive meaningful innovation and achieve substantial business and societal impact.

Key Responsibilities:
- Strengthening relationships with businesses.
- Leading university-wide efforts to attract corporate support.
- Collaborate with corporations to advance their business objectives by leveraging the University's vast resources and expertise.
- Assist businesses in navigating the University's offerings, uncovering innovative solutions, and creating significant impacts on their operations.

EIC Representatives:
- Caroline Baker, Executive Director
- Jordan Broutman: Director of Development