Deadline: September 26, 2025 at 11:59PM Pacific Time
**There will be NO EXTENSIONS to submission deadlines this year

This is a template for preparation purposes only. You will need to visit the submission portal and paste content into the corresponding fields and/or upload files as appropriate.

USASBE 2026
Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education Awards
Model University Entrepreneurship Accelerator/Incubator

The Model University Entrepreneurship Accelerator/Incubator Award is for University-affiliated accelerator or incubator programs primarily designed to develop and support students or community members at the idea stage.

*Community is broadly defined. A community can be a geographic community, a community of practice, or a discipline-specific community.

Impact will be assessed based on:

- Program alignment with the stated mission
- Effective student engagement
- Breadth of faculty support
- Breadth of engagement with the community
- Alumni and/or mentor engagement
- Programming support and engagement
- Sustainability of funding and support including university support
- Spaces (physical and virtual)
- Length of operation
- Staffing (full-time / part-time)

Application Requirements:

- The name of the individual or school being nominated
- The name of the person submitting the nomination
- A secondary contact person name (someone who can provide any additional materials needed).
- Secondary contact person email
- Secondary contact person phone number
- A Service Commitment Letter
    - Each award winner agrees to judge the category won in three of the following five years, including the year immediately following their award. A letter from the applicant's Dean is required to indicate support for this commitment and should be included with the nomination. The individual who nominates the program should be available to fulfill this commitment.

- Clearly describe the purpose and/or mission of the nominated accelerator/incubator. Provide a brief description of the accelerator/incubator, and describe key program accomplishments over a duration of at least three years. It is recommended to provide evidence/metrics of the effectiveness of the program as it aligns with your goals. Examples can include both short-term and long-term outcomes achieved.
- Describe the breadth of engagement the program has with students including key learning programs, innovations, mentoring or resources used to develop entrepreneurial mindset. Provide evidence of their impact on aspiring or nascent entrepreneurs.
- Provide examples of faculty support
- Describe engagement with and/or collaborations with key partners such as boards, partner organizations, affiliates, etc., who connect the program throughout the community.
- Describe alumni and mentor engagement including metrics
- Describe university and external sources of funding and support for the accelerator/incubator with special attention devoted to efforts for sustainability.
- Describe the spaces and places of the accelerator/incubator on your campus.
- Describe the team who work with this accelerator/incubator. Please include descriptions of paid and volunteer staff and resources.
- Appendices: Upload items that best support your application. (Note: Judges are expecting applications to be approximately ten pages long and are not encouraged to read beyond that point in the application. You are encouraged to carefully select content that efficiently and effectively supports your application. Please curate your materials carefully.)

Review Criteria

- The program's mission and objectives are clearly communicated and appropriate to a USASBE Model Accelerator/Incubator award winner.
- The program described is comprehensive in nature and substance.
- Please rate the program's record of accomplishments over a period of 3 years or greater. (While three years is the minimum period allowed, longer duration is not necessarily superior beyond that threshold. Please prioritize the quality and impact of the accomplishments.)
- Rate the boldness and innovativeness observed across the program.
- Rate the degree to which innovations may be replicable by other USASBE programs.

- Rate the degree to which you feel this nominee deserves to be recognized as a USASBE Model Accelerator/Incubator.
- Optional: Offer feedback that you believe would be beneficial to this program. (Note: Nominees are often quite grateful for thoughtful feedback.)

What to expect if you are selected as a finalist:

- Video Pitch: If your program is selected as a finalist, you will be asked to submit a video pitching your program, pedagogical innovation, or co-curricular innovation for the award. Videos may be up to 10 minutes in length. Finalists are encouraged to review the award-specific criteria along with the judging criteria before creating their video.
- Q&A with the Finalist Judges: One or more representatives of the nominated program will be invited to participate in a question and answer session with the finalist judges. These sessions will take place via Zoom prior to the USASBE 2026 conference.
- Selection of the Winners: The selection of the award winners will be made by the finalist judges. Finalist judges will select winners based on: (a) the contents of their original nomination; (b) their video pitch for the award; and (c) the question and answer session.
- Announcement of Winners: Winners will be announced during the USASBE 2026 Conference. Your program should have at least 1 representative at the USASBE 2026 Conference Awards Celebration if you are selected as a finalist.
- Note: Failure to submit a finalist video pitch, or participate in the finalist Q&A session with the judges will constitute forfeiture of the award.
- USASBE has the rights to publish the award nomination and related materials (PowerPoint slides, etc.) of award-winning entries to the USASBE website for use as a resource by USASBE members.
- One or more of the Finalists associated with the submission will attend the Conference to represent their nomination to the judges.
- Individuals who present before finalist judges agree to fulfill the service commitment included in the nomination package during the following five-year period.

The submission form on the website will dynamically build your conference submission based on your selections. Please note that there is no save feature, so you will need to complete the form on the website in one sitting. It is highly recommended that you prepare your submission details in advance using a template or word processor, and

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then copy/paste the information into the respective fields on the form. After submitting your form, you will be able to edit your submission at any time until the deadline.

To submit an application for the Model University Entrepreneurship Accelerator/Incubator

1. Select Submission Type & Category
2. Select Program & Lifetime Achievement and Advocacy Awards
3. Select Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education Awards
4. Select Model University Entrepreneurship Accelerator/Incubator
5. Enter all information as outlined below
6. Click Submit

Before you begin the submission process, you should be prepared to provide the following responses/uploads:

1. Enter the name of the Nominated Program in the "Submission Title" field.
2. In the Abstract field, clearly communicate the purpose and/or mission of the nominated program. [200 words]
3. In the Author field below,please enter a secondary contact name, email, and institutional affiliation.
4. Describe collaborations with key partners who connect the program throughout the community. [400 words]
5. Describe the team who work with this accelerator/incubator. [400 words]
    - Include descriptions of paid and volunteer staff and resources.
6. Describe the breadth of engagement the program has with students including key learning programs, innovations, mentoring, or resources used to develop an entrepreneurial mindset. [400 words]
    - Provide evidence of their impact on aspiring or nascent entrepreneurs.
7. Provide examples of faculty support. [300 words]
8. Describe university and external sources of funding and support for the accelerator/incubator. [400 words]
    - Please note special attention for funds devoted to efforts for sustainability.
9. Describe alumni and mentor engagement with the accelerator/incubator.
    - Include metrics within the description. [400 words]
10. Describe the spaces and places of the accelerator/incubator on your campus. [400 words]
11. Service Commitment Letter
    - Winners of the award must commit to being available to judge the year following receiving the award, and at least two more times within the next five years. A letter from the applicant's administration (Dean, Board Member, Executive Director, etc.) is required to indicate support for this

commitment and should be included with the nomination.

12. Appendices (optional)
    - Upload items that best support your nomination. You are encouraged to carefully select content that efficiently and effectively supports your nomination. Please curate your materials carefully.

Disclaimers

__ By submitting this nomination for consideration of award, the nominator(s) agree on behalf of themselves, the programs, and individuals included in the nomination that USASBE has the rights to publish the award nomination and related materials (PowerPoint slides, videos, etc.) of award-winning entries to the USASBE website for use as a resource by USASBE members.

__ One or more of the finalists associated with the submission will register for and be available during the conference to present their nomination during the awards panels held at the event.