SUPPORTING STUDENT COMMERCIALIZATION – PROVEN MODELS FOR TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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ACADEMIC ABSTRACT

The success of student entrepreneurs in transferring technology through licensing and startups is often celebrated but not widely achieved. Through examples and discussion, leaders of three programs with track records of success will discuss best practices for nurturing the creation of successful student led ventures in the technology sphere. Topics include the creation of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, leveraging startups for education, managing IP and conflict-of-interest and getting across the gap between formation and funding. Participants will take away an understanding of how to build cross-disciplinary collaborations that engage the university resources to support emerging technology entrepreneurs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The success of student entrepreneurs in transferring technology through licensing and startups is often celebrated but not widely achieved. Through examples and discussion, leaders of three programs with substantial track records of success will discuss best practices for nurturing the creation of successful student led ventures in the technology sphere. Issues to be addressed include the creation of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, leveraging startups for education, managing IP and conflict of interest and getting across the “gap” between formation and funding. Participants will take away an understanding of how to build cross disciplinary collaborations that engage the resources of the university to support emerging technology entrepreneurs.

The objectives for this panel are to provide actionable models for creating or improving on existing programs for enabling students to translate innovative technologies to the commercial sphere through startup, licensing and social venturing. Panelists will focus on key enabling factors for creating a receptive environment, supporting the translation process and harvesting both economic and educational benefits.

Panelists will present a fast paced overview of their programs and best practices followed by round robin interactive discussion on issues raised. Topics to be covered include balancing educational and economic objectives, defining the policy environment, engaging the business community, creating an entrepreneurial culture and creating sustainable programs.
Universities and colleges are increasingly looked to as promising sources of new technology based economic opportunity. Unlocking the potential value of research driven innovation is the key to realizing this promise and student entrepreneurs a key resource in doing so.