Midwest Collegiate Startup Showcase

Agenda

The Midwest Collegiate Startup Showcase gathers venture capitalists, angel investors, incubator spokesmen, top universities, and collegiate startups over a singular event to collectively exhibit the foremost startups and student pioneers of technology from universities throughout the Midwest. Academics, students, and professionals will interact with leading entrepreneurs from each school while learning from world-renown experts in entrepreneurship. In addition to the exposition and presentations, attendees will interface with current or future employers in established technology companies, venture capital teams, and startups which may not be able to regularly interact with the school.

When/Where?

Late April to early May in Chicago (venue TBD)

Why?

Through a coordinated and integrated effort among several universities, a showcase complementing numerous university entrepreneurship programs will generate media, investor attention, capital prizes, and corporate involvement at multiples greater than any single university can achieve on its own. Students, investors, and academics will connect with individuals typically outside of their networks but critical to future business success. Collaboration among independent programs will invigorate excitement and national attention on the Midwest as a center of innovation.

What do I need to do?

An express commitment from universities to partner in the event is needed at this planning stage. A partnership entails a pledge to select a university’s best startups for school representation along with assisting in the marketing of the showcase to interested students on their campus. Universities may continue to prepare developing campus startups through existing entrepreneurship programs and competitions. In early spring 2015, the partner university will select the representative startups and continue to publicize the event to entrepreneurial students on campus.

What do I/my students get?

University entrepreneurship program leaders, startups, and students will have the opportunity to network with venture professionals from across the nation and listen to industry experts. Program leaders, specifically, will have the chance to learn best practices from peers and meet professionals from outside of each school’s alumni base. Student startups have the unique opportunity to meet industry leaders, employees, investors, and potential mentors who can advise student startups on how to avoid novice pitfalls, secure funding, and connect with their first customers. Finally, students have the opportunity to meet future employers in the form of startups and established firms that do not visit many campuses while also becoming inspired by the innovations of their peers.