UCLA STARTUP UCLA REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY 2020

WHAT IS STARTUP UCLA?

Established in 2012, Startup UCLA develops entrepreneurs, a culture of entrepreneurial thinking, and connects students of all backgrounds with successful alumni and industry mentors. With Startup UCLA's wide array of workshops, office hours, venture consulting sessions, guest speaker programs and a co-working space, students are supported at every step in their journey to bring classroom and lab learning to bear upon challenging problems, brokering new solutions through entrepreneurship.

Startup UCLA:

- Provides **experiential learning** opportunities that allow students to acquire necessary skills to bring their startup ideas to fruition.
- Prioritizes **diversity, inclusion**, and access to entrepreneurial education and opportunities in order to democratize entrepreneurship.
- Enables participants to use entrepreneurship as a vehicle to bring **research findings and inventions** to a broader public.
- Leverages and builds upon a strong, supportive **community** – on campus, in Los Angeles, throughout the state, and nationally – in which students, faculty and alumni can develop and launch their ideas.

1,155 COMPANIES SUPPORTED SINCE 2012

13,000+ ATTENDEES TO STARTUP EVENTS

FULFILLING A COMMUNITY NEED

Startup UCLA serves entrepreneurs through three programs: Blackstone Launchpad & Techstars, the Summer Accelerator, and the Faculty Innovation Fellowship. And it all started with an idea from a UCLA alumna.

Julia Lam '05 was working at Facebook in 2011 when she realized that none of her Bruin colleagues knew each other, even though they'd graduated from the same school and had the same interest in start-ups and entrepreneurship. It occurred to her that opportunities for undergraduates to form a community around entrepreneurship didn't really exist at UCLA. She met with communication professor Tim Groeling and they began discussing ideas for a program that would teach students the basics of founding a tech startup and provide mentorship and opportunities to connect students with each other as well as industry professionals and investors.

The pilot program that emerged from the meeting was the first-ever Summer Accelerator. Ever since, Startup UCLA has been the only space on campus dedicated to providing entrepreneurship opportunities and mentorship for all members of the UCLA community, including current students, alumni and faculty.

Year-round, Startup UCLA staff and other experts are available to meet with entrepreneurs and guide them through every stage of the development process, from the beginning of an idea to a full-fledged company looking for investors. Mentors are supportive and encouraging, and focus on cultivating relationships with entrepreneurs and helping them think through their goals and execution.

BLACKSTONE LAUNCHPAD & TECHSTARS

Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars is a year-round, campus-based entrepreneurship program that offers venture consulting, co-working space and events to support the development of startups, nonprofits and social enterprises. The program was initiated under Startup UCLA in 2014 by a generous grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation.

Accessible by over 750,000 students globally at 24 universities, the program is designed to complement existing on-campus entrepreneurship resources, catalyze student ventures through connections to off-campus opportunities, and convene students and staff at global events leveraging world-class, industry-leading mentors, networks and brands.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, Blackstone Launchpad and Techstars at Startup UCLA supported 295 entrepreneurs (including students, faculty, alumni, and staff) representing 224 ventures to develop their businesses through 533 venture consulting meetings. Blackstone Launchpad allows Startup UCLA to provide critical support to entrepreneurs throughout the year.

Blackstone LaunchPad® & Techstars

SUMMER ACCELERATOR

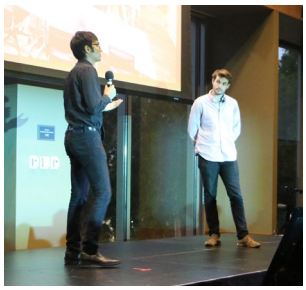
The Summer Accelerator is a 10-week, intensive boot camp designed to accelerate the development of a startup venture. It exposes teams to top entrepreneurs, investors and experts in web-related topics. The program includes:

- A competitive application process with 25% acceptance rate
- A $5,000 stipend for each team with no equity taken
- Co-working space
- Weekly meetings with mentors and venture consultants
- Weekly startup development workshops
- Visits to Silicon Valley and Silicon Beach to pitch venture capitalists and visit startups
- Weekly speaker series with industry experts
- Demo Day, an opportunity for the Summer Accelerator teams to showcase their startups and pitch their latest innovations

ON DEMO DAY

9 TEAMS
5 MINUTES
TO PITCH THEIR STARTUPS

400+
GUESTS INCLUDING ENTREPRENEURS, INVESTORS, ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STAFF



Startup UCLA helped our team not only focus on our priorities but also draw a bigger picture for our future growth. More than anything else, constantly speaking to the mentors and fellow teams, asking for their feedback and critique on various aspects of building our business, from product development to revenue generation, was valuable in defining and crystallizing both short- and long-term goals of our company.

- YOOMI CHIN
2016 SUMMER ACCELERATOR

FACULTY INNOVATION FELLOWS

Across UCLA, faculty are using entrepreneurship to bring their research and their academic creations to a new audience, fulfilling UCLA's mission to bring its research beyond campus and into the greater community. Developed in response to demand, the Faculty Innovation Fellows is a campuswide program open to all UCLA faculty aimed at advancing entrepreneurial excellence and startup culture.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Launched in 2019 in collaboration with the Technology Development Group (TDG) and the UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research.
- Eight to ten faculty-led teams to participate in dedicated mentoring with Startup UCLA.
- Twelve-week "accelerator" focused on pitch development, business strategy, and venture consulting.
- Designed to advance faculty innovative academic projects into new startup companies, centers, or non-profits.
- Public pitch showcase to a network of local entrepreneurs and investors.

Going into its third year, the program has welcomed faculty from a variety of disciplines. Many of the fellows' projects are centered on community impact and social justice.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STARTUPS

Now more than ever, the world is looking to entrepreneurs to solve the problems we face. Startup UCLA attracts students, alumni, and faculty from every discipline who want to make the world a better place through innovation and creative solutions. Startup UCLA is training the next generation of entrepreneurs, showcasing entrepreneurship as a viable career path, and starting them on their journey to change the world.

LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS
Deanna Evans

DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER, STARTUP UCLA SUMMER ACCELERATOR
Robert Jadon

ASSISTANT DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
Jaime Balboa

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE
Glentrez Thornton

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, STARTUP UCLA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL AND CO-FOUNDER
Tim Groeling