

# Inclusive Innovation Pathways Fellowship: Matching Innovation Experiences



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## Abstract:

We aim to create a pathway for diverse students to participate in innovation experiences, inspiring the next generation of innovators that will spur successful careers, commercialized innovations, and university spinoff companies and startups. The creation of an **Innovation Fellowship Canvas Site** easily accessible to Rutgers students from any major will be a centralized digital hub for innovative students to gain valuable insights and skills in Lean Startup, Business Model Canvas, Customer Discovery, and Design Thinking. The Canvas curriculum will prepare students for future **Innovation Experiences**, create a community of innovative peers and Mentors to guide their professional development, and connect them with paid experiential learning opportunities where they can contribute to innovation activities across campuses and throughout the Northeast region

## Primary Stakeholders:

- Veronica Armour, IDEA Program
- Cris San Miguel, GS-LSAMP Program
- Tamiah-Brevard, Aresty Research Center
- Lori Dars, Entrepreneurship Coalition
- Dunbar Birnie, Faculty Lead, NSF I-Corps Hub

## Key Steps/Activities:

- 1) Engagement** with Program Leaders & Stakeholders, Mentors/Sponsors (1-on-1s and set up Advisory Board)
- 2) Creation & development** of the Innovation Fellowship Canvas Curriculum:
  - a. Get input from collaborators on curriculum
  - b. Schedule guest speakers throughout the year
  - c. Get support from TLT on online curriculum
- 3) Launch** of Canvas Site and **recruitment campaign** for Innovation Fellows (help from Collaborators)
- 4) Connect** Innovation Fellows to Innovation Experiences. **Match** based on experience/skills/major
- 5) See impact** and **pay stipends** for matched Fellows

## Effectiveness Measures:

- Inclusive Innovation Fellowship Program engagement:
- 1. Program Leader/Stakeholder Engagements (Planning)**
  - 2. Fellowship Engagements (Outreach):**
    - a. Info Session attendees, applications
  - 3. Active Innovation Fellows (Canvas Course):** Signups
  - 4. Matched Innovation Fellows (Post-Canvas Course)**
    - 1. I-Corps Fellows (co-Entrepreneurial Leads)**
    - 2. Research Fellows (faculty research)**
    - 3. Innovation Ventures (internship)**
    - 4. Regional Innovation Experiences (startups)**
  - 5. Stories & Testimonials (Impact)**

## Communication/Engagement:

Fellows participate in an asynchronous Canvas Course with active engagement, discussions, assignments training on innovation concepts rarely taught in class. Fellows matched with Innovation experiences in the region share their experiences. Program stakeholders and the broader community can join to hear the stories for inspiration and the impact of the program.

- 1. Stakeholder Advisory Board meetings** twice/year
- 2. Newsletter** featuring success stories and impact
- 3. Info Sessions** twice per semester recruiting students to join, identifying pathways for success, run by previous I-Corps Fellows

## Proposed Timeline: 6-mo program interval

RLA Project Timeline: Inclusive Innovation Pathways Fellowship Program

Activity	Semester											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Project Presentation												
Engage with Stakeholders												
Advisory Board meetings												
Create Canvas Course												
Recruit for Inclusive Innovation Program												
Inclusive Innovation Pathways Program Runs												
Stipends issued												
Program Evaluation & Improvement												

## Current Status/Future Directions:

Currently in discussions with Primary Stakeholders to develop program curriculum to better understand the skills needed and problem areas where trained-up Innovation Fellows could join a project and bring relevant innovation ideas, skills, and networks to advance innovation projects across the university. Plan is to develop the curriculum and begin the Canvas Course to run a Pilot in the Fall semester. Need to identify funding source for 0.5 FTE and 10 stipends and hire a program manager to run the program.