Utah System of Higher Education: Innovation
Team

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Associate Commissioner of Innovation, Commercialization, & Economic Development

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"Long-term success demands a collaborative approach to governance. An innovation district’s work ethic and culture is “collaborate to compete.” A bottom-up horizontal governance model—involving business, academic and civic institutions, government, workers, and residents—can best orchestrate what must be done collectively: identifying assets; design, finance and strategic initiatives; public space management; and evaluating progress."

Brookings Institute “The Rise of Innovation Districts”
USHE Strategic Plan Innovation Goals:

**Leader in Innovation:**
- Establish Utah as a leader in innovation and commercialization in the field of higher education, driving impactful scientific advances, economic growth, and job creation.

**Collaboration and Synergy:**
- Encourage collaboration and synergy among universities, faculty, and departments to maximize research and innovation potential through shared resources and expertise.
- Encourage and facilitate strong partnerships among different universities, programs, and departments to address major challenges through interdisciplinary research.

**Public-Private Partnerships:**
- Engage with industry leaders, policy makers, and donors to foster public-private partnerships that elevate the value of higher education innovations and discoveries.
- Empower faculty and students within all institutions of higher education to solve business and policy problems for the state and the nation.
Our goal is to help Utah become the innovation hub of the world.

We are doing our part through the following initiatives:
Convergence Hall
**Convergence Hall**

In 2023, the State of Utah approved $50M in one-time state funding for the creation of Convergence Hall - the pinnacle building of The Point's Innovation District that is poised to bring together higher education, policymakers, investors, industry, students, entrepreneurs, etc. in a collaborative workspace.
The ability to have incidental interactions with a variety of people, ideas, and resources, commonly known as bumpability, can be an essential requirement for success in today's world. Whether for individuals, organizations, or communities, it is a vital tool for exploring and discovering fresh ideas, building new relationships, and uncovering the resources needed to develop innovative solutions and intellectual property.
Spatial Qualities

- Student Housing
- University Office Space
- Retail / Dining
- Innovation Museum / Makerspace
- Flexible Study Space
- Lecture Hall / Auditorium
- Flexible Classroom Space
- Incubator/ Venture Studio Space
Public-private partnership that brings together academics, policy experts, & business leaders to collaborate & share best practices to ensure Utah is leading out on innovative policies that are rooted in research & practical experience.

The Policy Lab acts as a convener, breaking down silos & facilitating information sharing through workgroups, panels, research, etc.

Navigating AI Policy in Utah: Opportunities and Risks Panel
When: Friday, June 2nd 2023 at 8:30am-10am
Where: Thomas S. Monson Center, SLC
Panelists: Rep. Jefferson Moss, Sen. Kirk Cullimore, Chris Bramwell-Chief Privacy Officer, Margaret Busse- Director of Commerce, Dene Himonas- Former State Supreme Court Justice, Alan Fuller-State CIO, Dr. Alex Lawrence-Weber State University, Barclay Burns, Matthew Poll, and Nick Pelikan.
Register: Seating is limited or Virtual Option - https://Alpolicypanel.eventbrite.com
Partnerships & Current Work

Energy Advisory Council
Energy Strategic Planning Committee
Blockchain & Digital Innovation Task Force
Data Privacy Working Group
AI Policy Working Group
United Economic Opportunity Commission – Technology, Innovation, & Investment
Regulatory Sandbox
The Utah Innovation Lab was created by the State of Utah to elevate Utah's economy by commercializing technologies discovered, advanced, or developed at Utah's institutions of higher education. Our goals is to bridge the gap between industry and higher education.
The Opportunity

Right now, inside Utah's university & technical schools is $Bs worth of opportunity waiting to solve societies biggest challenges.

01 Redefining Higher Education
We are creating a world where institutions of higher education are laboratories of innovation for corporations and society. Where industry leaders task expert researchers with solving their biggest problem.

02 Reimagining Tech Transfer
Through the Utah Innovation Lab, all institutions of higher education in Utah will have access to the resources required for successful commercialization of promising innovations.

03 Changing the Industry-Education Dynamic
Instead of PUSHING innovation out of universities, we work with industry and government to PULL innovation that has market demand into industry.
Our Approach

SUCCESSFUL VENTURES ARE MADE OF...

1. Strong & Investable Management Teams
2. A Validated Value Proposition & Sufficient Market-Size
3. Sufficient Capital
4. Customers & Partnerships
5. Lean Operations
Our Approach

CONNECTIONS FOR SUCCESS!

TEAM
Our Database of Operators connects companies to sector-specific previously successful & previously funded founders who have agreed to serve as mentors/operators.

VALUE-PROP
Our Industry Advisory Boards are made up of top experts who have agreed to advise companies within their expertise on the technical viability & industry desirability of their research.

CAPITAL
The Utah Innovation Fund is a $15M venture capital fund that invests in promising technologies being developed & explored at universities and technical colleges in Utah. Our network of later-stage investors provides future capital for companies that continue to show promise.

CUSTOMERS
Our Industry Advisory Boards are made up of some of the largest employers and organizations in the state who have expressed interest in exploring relevant innovative technologies via customer relationships & partnerships.

OPERATIONS
Our Business Services Network connects founders & operators to relevant service providers who have a mission to support Utah's growing startup community.
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EXPERIENCED BUILDERS & INVESTORS

Dave Carlebach
COO,
World Trade
Center Utah

Mark Paul
Executive
Director,
Center of
Medical
Innovation

Christian Iverson
Director,
Tech Transfer &
Utah State
University

Jefferson Moss
Associate
Commissioner of
Innovation,
Commercialization, &
Economic
Development, USHE

Cydni Tetro
CEO,
Brandless

Barclay Burns
Founder,
Generative
Impact.AI

Tom Ngo
Founder,
Lumin.ai
Investment Criteria

Company being spun-out of or partnering with a Utah institution of higher education

Investment Verticals
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace & Defense
- Energy & Natural Resources
- FinTech & Blockchain
- Life Sciences & Healthcare
- Software Technology
- Outdoor Products & Recreation

Pre-Seed & Seed investment
Higher Education as a Laboratory for Corporate Innovation
Corporate Innovation

Corporate partner brings the Utah System of Higher Education their problem & any related details / specs

USHE's Corporate Innovation Team convenes a team of leading researchers and students to solve the problem & potentially create IP

The team of students, professors, & experts deliver up-to-specified solution(s)
Student Changemaker
Incubator
Empowering Students to Solve the State's Problems

The Student Changemaker Incubator is an innovative program designed to empower students to tackle the world's most pressing challenges through collaborative initiatives, hackathons, competitions, etc.
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