



## EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS

### **EAUC Purpose:**

The Educational Association of University Centers (EAUC) promotes higher education economic development through the Economic Development Administration's University Center Program.

### **EDA University Center Mission: Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Apply university expertise and assets to build regional economies and grow high-growth entrepreneurship .

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## **Success Stories from the Southeast:**

### **Alabama: Auburn University**

Medsnap, a high-tech startup located in Birmingham's Innovation Depot is solving a key problem of medication adherence to reduce hospital readmissions and healthcare costs. Auburn's center provided key research and product design for a medicine tray through the university's Industrial Design Department to help the company launch its offering.



### **Florida: University of Florida**

The Startup Quest, created by UF's EDA University Center, drives economic transformation by providing opportunities for entrepreneurs, innovators, and the investment community to assess the commercial potential of UF discoveries and innovations. The program draws on the intellectual power of highly educated, but dislocated or underemployed professionals and redirects those resources to understand the commercialization pathway of inventions from universities and federal pathways. It has resulted in 14 startups and the creation of 20 jobs during in less than two years.



### **Georgia: Georgia Institute of Technology**

Urjanet provides a comprehensive data feed enabling large-scale energy consumers with multiple facilities to better manage institution-wide power usage, manage facility carbon footprints for carbon reduction strategies, and evaluate potential alternative power investments, e.g. solar and wind. Georgia Tech has provided coaching and commercialization assistance since late 2010 resulting in over \$8.2 million raised capital, the addition of 8 employees and a collaborative agreement with Cox Enterprises.



### **Kentucky: University of Kentucky**

Seikowave was formed in 2010 based on research in UK's Visualization Center. The company has created a revolutionary 3D imaging platform with a wide range of applications ranging from intra-oral dental measurements, to oil/gas pipeline inspections, to in-school scoliosis detection. UK's EDA University center has been instrumental in helping the company raise over \$2 million in seed financing from the Bluegrass Angels and Kentucky state funding programs.



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### **Mississippi: Mississippi State University**

A green energy startup has licensed Mississippi State University technology that converts renewable feedstocks to jet fuel. MSU helped the startup in the licensing process and worked with rural governmental agencies to secure an option on land to build the plant in an ARC distressed county. It also contacted airport FBOs and the Air Force about contracting to purchase the fuel.



### **North Carolina: Western Carolina University**

Stanley Furniture's Robbinsville, NC site is the only large employer for economically distressed Graham County and when discussions on relocating the plant surfaced, WCU's center worked with local, county and state partners to provide guidance and technical assistance which helped retain the plant and 42 jobs. The plant's energy needs and requirements were assessed and a thorough analysis was delivered to management to demonstrate practical methods to reduce energy costs and improve the profitability of the plant. Today, the plant is still the only major employer and economic driver in Graham County.



### **South Carolina: University of South Carolina**

The Proving Ground is the University's signature Idea to Product competition to identify and accelerate innovative business ventures. The competition was conceptualized and supported by the EDA University Center program and launched in early September. The competition generated 50+ submissions from four campuses across the state; five new ventures formed; \$30,000 in seed funding awarded and over \$150,000 in follow on funding. Watsi, was one of three winning teams. It is a crowdfunding platform for medical treatments in third world countries. Recently Watsi was accepted as the first ever nonprofit in the globally recognized Y-Combinator in San Francisco.



### **Tennessee: University of Tennessee**

Recognizing the complexity and competitiveness of today's economic development environment, the UTUC has led the development of the first professional certification program for economic development practitioners in Tennessee. The newly launched Tennessee Certified Economic Developer (TCED) Program provides high quality training, continuing education and professional development opportunities to Tennessee's economic and community development practitioners and community leaders. Through courses such as Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Business Retention and Expansion, and Strategic Planning for Economic Development, the UTUC is helping community leaders understand the factors that drive growth and innovation.

