

Launch Competition: Propelling Tomorrow's Innovations

FAU Tech Runway's annual Launch Competition provides the most promising ventures and talented entrepreneurs the opportunity to join one of three distinct tracks:

- Community-based entrepreneurs
- FAU undergraduate students
- FAU faculty, staff and graduate students.

Launch Competition winners receive:

- Entrepreneurship instruction (including I-Corps module)
- Preferred access to regional business and tech events
- No-cost co-working space (including 1GBps Internet)
- Introductions to potential sources of early-stage capital
- Structured team mentoring based on the MIT Venture Mentoring process
- Over \$100,000 in cash awards
- Marketing and business planning support from college interns
- Free office hours from premier professional support firms (attorneys, accountants, etc.).



National Science Foundation Innovation Corps Site Designation (NSF I-CORPS)

FAU is proud to be one of the only three universities in the state having designation as an NSF I-CORPS Regional Site. This program prepares scientists, engineers, and first-time entrepreneurs to translate their raw technologies and concepts into the marketplace via a rigorous training process that focuses upon customer segmentation and value proposition identification, via 40 customer discover interviews conducted over a five week period.

Participants are also immersed in the Lean Startup methodology, the "gold standard" in entrepreneurship basic skills instruction.



Company showcasing their product at the Launch Competition.

FAU Tech Runway Investor Network (FAU-TRIN)

FAU Tech Runway is home to the first university-affiliated angel network in the state, known as the FAU-TRIN. FAU-TRIN members are early-stage, accredited investors who enjoy "first-looks" at the most intriguing start-ups and early-stage companies emerging from the university, FAU Tech Runway, the Research Park at FAU, and across the entire FAU "Owl Nation."



Company pitching to an investor at the Meet The Angels event.

FAU Tech Runway's Recipe for Success: Expert, Team- based Mentorship

One cornerstone of FAU Tech Runway's success is its mentorship program, modeled on MIT's Venture Mentoring Service (MIT VMS). Established in 2000, MIT VMS has assisted more than 1,450 startup ventures that have raised more than \$1.4 billion in funding. Through this team-based, structured, cross-functional mentorship model, entrepreneurs receive guidance, coaching, and introduction to resources and contacts, from a team of accomplished technology entrepreneurs.

