

Student Start-up Support System (S4)

Strengthening the entrepreneurial eco-system:

GTU shakes hands with NASSCOM and Dewang Mehta Foundation

In order to evangelize the Start-Up ecosystem, Gujarat Technological University (GTU), jointly with Dewang Mehta Foundation, NASSCOM's 10 K Start-Ups and in association with GESIA is organizing "Start-Up 2020" competition for the young graduates/ senior students of Engineering and Management disciplines.

More information and registration is available at : <http://www.openfuel.org/gtu-nasscom-startup-2020/> ; Last date for registration is 27 Apr 2013. The program will be held between 3-5 May.

Under the leadership of Dr. Akshai Aggrawal, Vice Chancellor, GTU has built an ambitious S4 (Student Start-up Support System) program for its students. With this program GTU aims to give an experiential learning of entrepreneurship to its students. Yash Saxena, who is the honorary coordinator of S4 Project, is handling the organization of the startup 20/20 program. There is a growing need amongst students to think outside the box and work on an idea that could be expanded to build an enterprise. In the process, students come across forming a team that will be capable of making an idea grow and work through various challenges to make a successful entrepreneurial venture. In short the event focuses on taking the ideation and innovation outcomes towards commercialization stage. GTU has worked to build a culture of innovation and R & D amongst its faculties and students. It has encouraged the students to work on ideas that would benefit the society at large, through its GTU Innovation Sankuls. It has also invited the grass-root innovators, to inter-act with the students and faculty members for mutual advantage. GTU is the first Technology University in our country to have started all these programs. This has resulted in benefiting as many as 1900 industries and it has led to filing of 177 patents, based on student-projects, by the students, faculty members, Colleges and the MSEs.

The weekend program, of 3-5 May 2013, through its structure aims to inculcate the practice of co-creation leading to innovation.

Start-Up 2020 is supported by experts and successful entrepreneurs who would provide mentorship to these young start-ups and help them in their ideation and in the process of setting up enterprises. While the students from various GTU Engineering and management

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institutes will come together on Friday morning, some of them meeting at the venue for the first time, will form teams around an idea of their choice and will work through Saturday and Sunday to make a presentation in front of a Panel of judges who would select the top three ideas, which have a potential to be incubated as Start Ups.

Appendix:

A few Lines on GTU's work in Entrepreneurship

The Incubation Cycle may be distributed into three steps:

1. Ideas to proof of concepts
2. Proof of concepts to products
3. Products to markets.

GTU wants to encourage its students and graduates through the entire cycle. The report of GTU's activities, in this direction, is as follows:

- On 2nd August 2010, GTU began the GTU Innovation Council (Today it is, 'by a long long shot' the most active Innovation Council in the country.)
- During the summer of 2011, the first cohort of our degree engineering students, who were to enter their Final Year of studies in August 2011, as well as the Diploma engineering students went on Shodh Yatras all over the state to search out a problem for their Final Year project. 50,000 students started working on 17,000 projects in Aug 2011. 73% of the projects were anchored in the industry and were designed to improve a product or a process in the participating industry.

About 1,900 industries have said in the preliminary report that they have benefited from the projects, **done by the students.**

More than 177 patents, based on the projects, have already been filed.

Such an effort has never before been made by any University anywhere. This program has been taken up under the GTU Innovation Council.

For immersion studies in our MBA program, we have set up three Skills councils (Marketing, HR and Finance) with 25 Sectoral Panels (7, 8 and 10 Sectoral Panels respectively for the Marketing, HR and Finance Councils respectively.)

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- On September 3, 2011, GTU started workshops on Intellectual property Rights. The objective was that the faculty members should be able to spot a patentable idea and advise their students, the college and the industry about desirability of applying for a patent and about the ethical practices in each case. The following Workshops were conducted during 2011-12:
 - 2-days workshop on “Patenting in Pharmaceutical Sciences”: 140 Faculty members
 - Five 2-days workshops on “Patenting in Engineering”: 840 Faculty members
 - 2-days Advanced workshop on “Patent Search & Drafting of Provisional Application”: 124 Faculty members
 - 1-day workshop on “Filing of Provisional Patent Application”: 25 Faculty members
 - Eight 1-day workshops on “Patent Search Methodology”: 1,405 Faculty members

Half-day awareness workshops were conducted for students at Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot. The details of these workshops are as follows:

- Total no. of Awareness workshop conducted for students : 10
- Approximate no. of students, trained in the workshops : **3000**

During this academic year, the University has begun workshops for students on Prior Art Search.

By May 2012, for many of the projects, patent applications have been filed (with zero support from the Innovation system in the country.) We have learnt about 177 such patent applications, even though the number of such applications by the outgoing class may be more.

137 groups have registered with Student Start-up Support System (S4 Cell) of the University for setting up new enterprises on the basis of their projects.

- When the students projects were reaching completion, we organized two Design Workshops.
- Two Student Startup Support System(S4) workshops were organized so that our students may be able to become successful entrepreneurs.
 - S4 Workshop on 25th February 2012: The workshop was attended by over 100 students and faculty members. A few entrepreneurs also spoke at the function and share their stories of entrepreneurship. The workshop also conducted an idea generation session among the students.

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Announcement:

<http://gtu.ac.in/circulars/12Feb/Entrepreneurship%20workshop%2025th%20circular.pdf>

Report:

http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/GTU_inovation_sankul/Entrepreneurship_Workshop_25th_Event_Report- GIC Format.pdf

The Highlights of the student activities at the workshop in video format are available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAHaXmJWZZw>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLTHz_vBkSE&feature=relmfu

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v98juQnEdOE&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9ccnKIB3ql&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY1ks0acfBQ&feature=relmfu>

- S4 Workshop on 2nd June 2012: This Workshop was organized after the Final Exams. 137 groups of students working in the fields of IT, Mobile Computing etc came together to learn about entrepreneurship along with some leading entrepreneurs in Ahmedabad. The workshop organized panel discussions with the entrepreneurs.
Report :
http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/GTU_inovation_sankul/4612.pdf
- S4 organized TiE over Coffee meeting with Mr Mihir Joshi and other authorities from GVFL and other financial institutions.
- We are continuing to work with students from other fields.