

We Help Small Businesses Scale Up



Northeastern Lab for Inclusive Entrepreneurship

The Northeastern Lab for Inclusive Entrepreneurship (NL4IE) seeks to assist small businesses and early stage startups, particularly the ones in the Portland-Boston-Providence Corridor that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and are owned by socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs. We also offer inclusive, equitable innovation and entrepreneurship (IE²) fellowships for small business owners to take a sequence of micro-credential courses to help them grow and scale.

Inclusive Entrepreneurship Fellowships

The IE² Fellowship Program will provide entrepreneurs in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island with tools and solutions they can take back to their organizations and communities and use in their day-to-day activity to improve their business operations, transform their business models, increase their market reach or tackle other business-related challenges.

A major focus is on entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities recovering from the effects of the pandemic.

Fellows will be matched with academic and industry mentors and receive basic training on how to raise capital, how to retain their employees and manage a virtual workforce, how to best position their products on the market, and what innovation strategy to implement. Fellows will receive a full scholarship for the 16-week educational program, including participation in Career Resiliency Workshops that result in digital badges that can be 'stacked' into degree programs.

Fellows will have the opportunity to tap into Northeastern University's entrepreneurial ecosystems of centers, institutes, and start-up labs. They will also become members of an ongoing group dedicated to lifelong learning.

Technical and Managerial Assistance

Technical and managerial assistance will be provided in two primary ways.

First, leveraging the College's deep experience with project-based learning, 20 small businesses and startups will be matched with teams of faculty and students to solve business challenges.

Research highlights a wide range of challenging facing small business, including:

- Forecasting financial performance
- Building an e-commerce website
- Leading remote teams
- Assessing the organizational readiness for AI-initiated change
- Cleaning/organizing/analyzing data for fact-based decision-making and trends
- Designing a digital marketing strategy
- Developing a vendor relations strategy to support supplier diversity
- Acquiring and retaining talent

Second, an online NL4IE website will provide resources and training materials in these subject areas for small business owners and entrepreneurs nationwide. The goal is to offer practical, actionable information on demand to interested stakeholders.

CENTER DIRECTOR

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CENTER LOCATION

101 Belvidere St, Boston,, MA 02115

CENTER ACTIVITIES

Managerial Support for
Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Start
ups

Flexible, Experiential Educational
Opportunities

CLIENTS

Students, alumni, project sponsors
(diverse small businesses and start
ups)

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WEBSITE

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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