



COLLABORATORY

FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS

An EDA University Center at
the University of Florida

UF INNOVATE

The Collaboratory for Women Innovators seeks to inspire, educate, and empower women to attain leadership in all phases of the innovation lifecycle. Diversity is critical to the success of innovation in the U.S., and research shows that there is still a significant disparity in the numbers of women entrepreneurs and innovators. The Collaboratory seeks to bridge that gap by supporting participants at various stages of personal and professional development.



**Hands-on comprehensive
learning programs**



**Access to mentors, startup
and career advice, and more**



**Unique opportunities for
networking with your peers
in the community**



**Special topic workshops
designed for the needs of
women innovators**

A portfolio of resources and training opportunities ranging from structured programming to informal networking, workshop and special topic speakers are offered, designed to address diverse goals and objectives. Programs and resources are designed to support women starting their own companies as well as increase participation of female inventors/researchers. Additional activities provide opportunities for women to learn more about innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership and connect with like-minded people and mentors.

While the Collaboratory has a focus on women, we also offer programming that is non-gender specific.

Core Programs

Membership Program

Collaboratory Membership is a 3-month personalized program providing strategic guidance and support resources for women and female-identifying individuals who have an active company or are working on launching a company. Membership benefits include mentoring, coaching and business guidance, access to University resources, and networking opportunities.

StartUp Roadmap

The StartUp Roadmap program provides an interactive, high-energy hands-on environment to roll up your sleeves and discover the business value proposition for your idea - and much more! Designed for early stage companies or technologies/products with scalable potential, Startup Roadmap meets weekly in small-group sessions to apply a business-focused lens to your idea. At the end of the program participants will have developed a roadmap to market, including a pitch presentation deck. The program uses the nationally recognized Wendy Kennedy Curriculum, and is open to all genders.

Empowering Women in Technology Startups (EWITS®)—www.ewits.org

EWITS is a 10-week, hands-on experiential learning program that teaches women foundational business, commercialization, and teamwork skills.

Participants from various disciplines work as part of a team and gain valuable insights in researching and understanding a real technology, writing a business plan, and going through a simulated exercise of creating a company. Launched in 2012, EWITS has developed a strong alumni network of past participants, mentors, speakers and supporters. The program has received national recognition, including being named by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) as one of the leading programs in the country making an impact in gender innovation. EWITS program data shows that program graduates increase their mastery of entrepreneurial competencies by 71% and have a 22% increased efficacy for overcoming barriers to entrepreneurship.

SBIR/STTR Grant Resources

SBIR/STTR is a federally funded grant program that supports the commercialization of small business research. Each year, twelve federal agencies allocate a percentage of their spending to SBIR grants, designed to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and to increase commercialization of federal research funding by the private sector. The Collaboratory hosts an annual full-day SBIR/STTR workshop and follow on resources to help teach participants how to garner proof-of-concept funding to enable them to further develop their technologies into marketable products.

“The University of Florida’s Collaboratory for Women Innovators has given me not just a supportive, encouraging community, but the courage to make my dream of launching a genre specific online bookstore with a social media platform a reality. I’m grateful to have such an incredible educational resource available to me!”

— Robyn Crawford, Founder and CEO Eden Books.org

“Today, I am working with a new start-up company that was impressed by what I learned in EWITS. I am using the knowledge of team building, marketing research, and business plan concepts that I gained in the program!”

— EWITS Participant

“Thank you for the Collaboratory for Women Innovators. The EWITS and Startup Roadmap programs came to my professional life just at the right time. I have a mindful acceptance of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship. I don’t have to be scared anymore trying to navigate an entrepreneurial path. I am an innovator and a connector of possibilities, and now I am confident that I can become an entrepreneur. It is possible, and I can make it happen! The network, experience, and support that I found in the Collaboratory changed my life!”

—Ana C. Bohórquez, Founder and President Bohr Scientific Solutions



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 innovate.research.ufl.edu/the-hub/collaboratory/

