Mueller Entrepreneur Internships

The Center for Innovation invites UND undergraduate and graduate students interested in starting a venture or launching a new product to consider the Mueller Entrepreneur Internship program. The opportunity to work on your own venture in an entrepreneur environment of the Tech Incubator is made possible through the generosity of Kurt Mueller ’62, Past-President of the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership in Kansas City, Missouri. Since 1997, Mueller has made significant gifts to the Center for Innovation for a student internship program to encourage and foster student ventures, and learn entrepreneur skills by working in an entrepreneur environment. Sixty-six (66) students have taken advantage of the internship opportunity since 1997.

Interested student entrepreneurs should contact Bruce Gjovig, Director of the Center for Innovation at Bruce@Innovators.net. A one-two page work plan outlined what will be accomplished during the internship should be provided (prototype developed, market tested, develop business plan and financial projections, etc.). Students are expected to complete a business plan or develop a viable business model for a for-profit venture during their internship. Types of entrepreneur development projects eligible to be completed during a semester include: prototypes, test marketing, market plan, business plan, accessing capital, cash flow management, and/or exploring strategic alliances or partnerships. Students may apply as an individual or a team for up to $1,500 per semester per student. The Center for Innovation provides office space (value of $1750/semester). With access to staff expertise and consulting the total value is over $6,000. Bi-weekly reports of progress are a condition of accepting the entrepreneur internships (i.e. accountability, progress, bias for action). Preference may be given to entrepreneur majors and track students, but all UND students are eligible.

Kurt Mueller is a native of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. In 1962, he received his degree in accounting from UND. After graduation, he launched his accounting career with Arthur Young. He started his own consulting firm, Financial and Credit Consultants in 1976. In 1981, Mueller went to work for Ernst & Young LLP in Kansas City becoming a partner in the firm in 1984 and the National Director for Entrepreneur Services building the entrepreneurial services practice for the firm. After early retirement in 1996, he became Chairman and President of the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City, MO. The Kauffman Foundation is the largest foundation supporting entrepreneurship, providing millions in support for innovative entrepreneur initiatives nationwide at all levels from students to high-growth entrepreneurs. Mueller served, as a trustee on the UND Center for Innovation Foundation from 1997 to 2003 has been a member of the advisory board member of the Center. Mueller received an Honorary Degree from UND in 2004. He now serves as director of three early-stage growth companies in the Kansas City area.