Submit your Application for the Columbia Venture Competition!

The first round application for the 2016 Columbia Venture Competition is due in just two days. Submit yours now for the opportunity to win thousands of dollars to fund your business idea or startup! You can find more information about the Columbia Venture Competition and first round application below. Don't forget to visit our website where you can stay up-to-date on events, like the ones listed below, and find plenty of entrepreneurship-related resources.

**Upcoming Events**

1. The AlphaLab Gear National Hardware Cup - **2/23**
2. WE Pitch 2016 - **today 2/17** (workshop) and 3/4-5 (festival)
3. Obama's StartUp Nation: Perspectives on Catalyzing Innovation Inside and Outside the Government - 3/4
4. 2016 Columbia Venture Competition Finals & #StartupColumbia Festival - 4/28-29

**Upcoming Deadlines**

1. 2016 Columbia Venture Competition First Round Application - **2/19**
2. SEAS Translational Fellows Program - **2/23**
3. Columbia's First Ideation Lab - 2/29
4. Columbia Startup Lab Application - 3/13
5. App Idea Awards - 3/31
6. Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program - 3/15, 4/1, 4/15
7. Amazon Activate @ Columbia

**Opportunities to Get Involved**

1. Volunteers to staff Lean Startup Enterprise Summit - **2/24**
2. Marketing Internship at Neopenda
3. Project Coordinator Internship at onTarget

If there is something specific that you'd like us to include in this newsletter, please contact us. If you're interested in what's happening at the university-wide scale, check out our friends at Columbia Entrepreneurship, CORE and ADI.

Upcoming Events

1. The AlphaLab Gear National Hardware Cup NYC Regional Finals
   Tuesday, February 23, 2016
   6:00 - 9:30 pm
   Lehman Auditorium, Altschul Hall
   Apply and register to attend here.

   The AlphaLab Gear National hardware Cup is a pitch competition for early-stage hardware startups hosted in 9 cities around the US. Winners in each city will receive $1K cash, a free Techshop membership, and other prizes, as well as a chance to win a $50K convertible-debt investment from Startbot VC at the National Finals in May.

2. WE Pitch 2016
   Workshop: Wednesday, February 17, 2016
   Festival: Friday, March 4 - Saturday, March 6, 2016
   Find more information here.

   Women Entrepreneurship (WE) Pitch Festival was launched a year ago to promote women entrepreneurs. It helps women develop their business ideas by meeting people with similar interests and learning from experienced mentors. Pitches at all stages are welcomed. Join #WePitch2016 for an informational workshop today from 7-8:30 pm in 750 CEPSR. Sign up here. Have an idea & want to pitch it? Apply to #WePitch2016.

3. Obama's StartUp Nation: Perspectives on Catalyzing Innovation Inside and Outside the Government
   Friday, March 4, 2016
   12:00 pm
   Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR Building
   Please register here.

   At this free event, you'll hear from three current and former federal officials who will offer insight into how the Obama Administration has made innovation a top priority and what
this means for the future of entrepreneurship, inside and outside the government. Xavier Hughes (Chief Innovation Officer, U.S. Dept. of Labor), Cheryl Martin (former Acting Director of ARPA-E at the U.S. Dept. of Energy) and moderator and participant Javier Saade (former U.S. Small Business Administration’s Associate Administrator) will share insights gleaned from their careers working in the public and private sectors, the paths that led them to working in the Obama administration, and their thoughts on the future of innovation and entrepreneurship going forward.

This event is co-sponsored by Columbia College, Columbia Entrepreneurship, Columbia Law School, Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE), Columbia University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, and The Eugene Lang Entrepreneurship Center.

4. 2016 Columbia Venture Competition Finals and #StartupColumbia Festival

Thursday, April 28 - Friday, April 29, 2016

Find more information here.

The 3rd annual #StartupColumbia Festival is a two day conference that brings together the Manhattan entrepreneurial community in celebration of innovation and new ventures that enrich our lives and address the world's most challenging problems. The Festival will feature the final round of the Columbia Venture Competition in which the top competitors in all five challenges will compete for prize money to fund their business ideas. The conference will continue the next day with discussions led by notable entrepreneurs, technologists, venture capitalists and more as well as announcements of the winners of the Columbia Venture Competition. Stay tuned because it's something you won't want to miss.

Upcoming Deadlines

1. 2016 Columbia Venture Competition First Round Application

Due by Friday, February 19, 2016, 11:59pm

Apply here.

The 8th Annual Venture Competition is a university-wide entrepreneurship competition open to students and recent alumni. The five different challenges will award a total of $250,000 to winners for pitching their business idea--whether it be at idea stage, prototyping, shipment, or anywhere in between.

Columbia Engineering is proud to sponsor two challenges: Global Technology and Technology. Entrants in the Global Technology Challenge should create tech-based solutions for global issues in areas such as environment, sustainability, health, disaster relief, and security. The Technology Challenge, which seeks ventures based on product development, innovative design and “builder” technologies, welcomes both hardware and software ventures. Undergraduates are eligible to participate in any track but highly encouraged to consider the Undergraduate Challenge. The final two challenges, SIPA Dean's Public Policy Challenge and #Startup Columbia Challenge, are also great options. Applications are due this Friday so apply now!
2. SEAS Translational Fellows Program

Due by Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 11:59pm

Find more information here.

The TFP is a competitive postdoctoral research program that funds selected fellows for one day per week (paying 20% salary), providing them the opportunity to pursue commercialization of a technology that originated in SEAS research. The TFP aligns resources available through Columbia's entrepreneurial ecosystem to accelerate the pace of technology translation.

Spring 2016 will welcome the second class of TFP fellows. The application requires a nomination letter from a research advisor and a presentation on the technology that s/he will be commercializing. Please see the link above for more details on eligibility, opportunities, selection criteria, and application details.

3. Columbia's First Ideation Lab

The Archimedes Project Planning Committee is organizing Columbia's first Ideation Lab in Spring 2016. The lab will bring together students and young professionals from across all disciplines and schools for a weekend, challenging their creativity, expertise, and passion, to find solutions to Nepal's water and sanitation issues due to the April 2015 earthquake.

The committee is interested in finding collaborators and funding opportunities. To support the planning committee with preparatory research, identifying mentors, engaging with potential partners in Nepal, spearheading marketing or organizing logistics, please email Ramya Ahuja at ra2622@columbia.edu.

For those interested in participating in the Ideation Lab, the application will open in February 2016. What's most exciting? The winning social enterprise idea will be vetted in Nepal for implementation in Summer 2016 by a fellow of the Archimedes Project!

4. Columbia Startup Lab Application

Due by Sunday, March 13, 2016, 11:59 pm

Find out more information here and apply here.

The Columbia Startup Lab is a 5,100 sq.ft. co-working facility located at WeWork Soho West that provides subsidized space for 71 Columbia young alumni founders and their teams to house and nurture their ventures. It not only gives Columbia alumni the physical space for their teams, but also provides a collaborative, supportive and high-achieving environment where ideas can be developed into successful businesses. The application and selection process will take place in March. Visit the links above for more details.

5. App Idea Awards

Due by Thursday, March 31, 2016

Find out more information and apply here.

The App Idea Awards is a competition in which people compete to get their app idea made without carrying the burden of financing. Participants have the opportunity to attend free online and physical classes so that people from all backgrounds and educations have the opportunity to apply. General Assembly, Harvard Angels, the Columbia Venture Community and Rokolabs are sponsoring this competition to reward app based business models that can both generate revenue and scale. The winning team will receive up to
$70K in funding for product design and development.

6. Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program
Due by March 15, April 1, or April 15, 2016
Find out more information and apply here.

The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School supports the Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program, a unique and exciting opportunity for students to apply learning from the classroom with an organization making social change in the world. This fellowship was expanded in 2015 to provide financial support to Columbia and Barnard undergraduate and graduate students engaged in summer internships that create social and environmental value. The Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program contributes a $200 to $600 per week stipend to assist with expenses associated with the internship to summer fellows, depending on the availability of funds.

7. Amazon Activate @ Columbia
Find out more and apply here.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and SEAS Entrepreneurship Programs at Columbia have partnered to provide students, staff, and faculty interested in starting web-based business ventures free tools to do so. AWS provides web services, commonly known as cloud computing, which are on-demand IT resources. Cloud computing helps many startups launch without investing in costly infrastructure.

The Activate program offers several benefits to new Columbia startups, and those that have not raised more than $1.5 million in funding. Some of these perks include $1000 in AWS credits valid for one year, free access to web-based training and hands-on labs, one month of premium AWS Business Support, and more! The application will open soon so stay tuned for this opportunity.

Opportunities to Get Involved

1. Volunteers to staff the Lean Startup Enterprise Summit

Calling all business school students and entrepreneurs! Lean Startup is hosting a 2-day event in NYC, on February 24-25th and we are looking for staff volunteers. The Lean Startup methodology helps entrepreneurs build, grow, and scale businesses. We are excited to bring the first Lean Startup event to NYC and share the expertise of seasoned executives, startup founders, and bootstrapping entrepreneurs.

To volunteer, you must be available on Wednesday, 2/24 or Thursday, 2/25 (or both). We will need help in the following areas: attendee registration, helping attendees find seats, running the microphone for Q&A and general event assistance. In return, we’ll give you a ticket to attend the event for the hours you aren’t working- or, a ticket for the entire day of Feb 25 (if you work Feb 24) – a value of $1,260.00

To apply, please fill out this form or email us directly at kirsten@leanstartup.co if you have questions. We will get back to you ASAP with next steps.

To learn more, visit the event website here.

2. Marketing Internship Opportunity
Neopenda is a global health startup working to save the lives of the most vulnerable babies in the world. Our mission is to contribute to global efforts of reducing newborn mortality in areas with few resources. We are developing a vital signs monitor that can help alert attending nurses when a newborn is in dire need of care.

You will have the unique opportunity to design and manage a creative and inspiring crowdfunding campaign that will enable us to perform pilot studies with our device later this year. The timeline of the project will be 2 months. Responsibilities may include:

- Help develop a powerful storyboard for our video
- Lead marketing efforts (crowdfunding site profile, blogs, social media, press releases, flyers, etc)
- Coordinate campaign efforts (work with videographer to produce video, work with our team in Uganda to collect content, etc)

If you are interested, please contact Sona Shah at sona@neopenda.com.

3. Project Coordinator Internship Opportunity

onTarget, www.ontargetcloud.com, is a fast growing start-up, that builds automated technology for the Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industry and recently graduated from Columbia Startup Lab. They have just received angel funding from top investors in Silicon Valley and are partnering with construction companies in NYC to launch their software. onTarget is looking for someone to track and manage costumer acquisition, prepare and conduct presentations to potential clients, correct and verify 2D drawing and 3D models, and more. The candidate must have a basic understanding of construction methods and knowledge of basic principles of MEP, have a working knowledge of AutoCAD and/or Revit, understand technical drawings and be willing to learn and be passionate about construction. If you are interested, please contact Niran Shrestha at niran@ontargetcloud.com with your resume immediately.

Mentoring

We're always looking for mentors for our most promising teams. If you would like to share advice and help an aspiring entrepreneur, please register here to be a volunteer mentor. You will have the amazing opportunity to assist a team improve its business idea/model and increase its chances of gaining funding!

Office Hours

The staff of SEAS Entrepreneurship Programs invites you to our open office hours! Email seaseship@columbia.edu to schedule. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by asking us questions about anything related to entrepreneurship, especially as you prepare to enter the Columbia Venture Competition. We have many resources that we'd love to share with you!