



Zink Center For Competitive Innovation

Programs and Opportunities: *A Framework for Sustainable Excellence*



Academy of Mentors *fosters academic support, peer connections, and positive role modeling.* Mentors connect with students both virtually and in person. Mentees gain technical, leadership, career advice and a sense of community all of which contribute to academic, professional and personal growth and success. Launch the program! Be a mentor!

[Learn More! Get Involved!](#)



Competition Hub *encourages teamwork, grit, and intellectual curiosity.* Competition teams coalesce around an interdisciplinary design challenge requiring ingenuity, perseverance, and technical expertise in multiple disciplines to solve complex engineering problems. Students develop a shared sense of responsibility resulting in a culture of collaboration, growth, and mutual success. Support the teams! Build the hub!

[Learn More! Get Involved!](#)



Innovation Hub *cultivates creative prototyping and essential business skills.* Teams bring together CEAT and Spears students who desire to launch a technology-based business. By partnering with the School of Entrepreneurship, Cowboy Innovations, the Riata Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the CEAT ENDEAVOR laboratory, the Zink Center positions these teams for a successful business launch. Support the teams! Build the hub!

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Industry Sponsored Project Teams, Seminars, and Events *foster academic support, peer connections, and positive role modeling.* Mentees gain technical, leadership, career advice and a sense of community all of which contribute to increased retention and success. The program encourages academic and practical life support, long-term networking, and a culture of collaboration, benefiting both mentors and mentees in their academic and personal growth. Sponsor a project, seminar or event!

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Academy of Mentors

Brings students, alums and industry mentors together to facilitate the growth and success of the Zink Center Competition and Innovation Teams

- The Academy of Mentors is an informal network of experienced and interested alumni and friends who are eager to engage with CEAT students
- The Academy of Mentors will assist in developing technical and team leadership skills as well as facilitating peer-to-peer mentoring within the student teams.
- Zink Center leadership will provide a Variety of avenues for students And mentors to connect including In-person and online opportunities.



Funding Strategy:

1. Create Peer-to-Peer Mentor Scholars Program (\$5M endowment)

- This program will be designed to award scholarships to excellent CEAT student mentors at the junior and senior levels.
- The program will include enrichment activities, including workshops, specialized training and conferences.

2. Create Peer-to-Peer Scholars Prize Fund (\$1M endowment)

- This fund will provide excellent peer-to-peer scholars with state-of-the-art computers hardware and software to support their mentoring activities.

3. Create Named Mentor Spaces Within the Zink Center

- The mentor-spaces will provide Zink Center competition and innovation team members with a place to meet in person or virtually with their mentors.
- Virtual meetings will be supported by state-of-the art hardware and software.

Competition Hub

Cultivates creative problem solving, teamwork and grit in competitive environment

- Competition teams bring together CEAT and Spears students with a common Interest to compete in national and international collegiate competitions.
- Teams learn to successfully manage all aspects of complex new-product development including marketing, finance and performance specifications.
- Students develop communication, collaboration, time management, and business organization and leadership skills in a positive, high-energy Environment.
- Teams engage with industry mentors and sponsors and learn to value the experiences and perspectives of others.



Funding Strategy:

1. Create Competition Scholars Program (\$5M endowment)

- This program will be designed to recruit top students to an immersive, multidisciplinary experience focused on the CEAT competition teams and the design-build-competite experience.
- It will include enrichment activities, leadership workshops, and recruitment scholarships.

2. Create Competition Prize Fund (\$1M endowment)

- This fund will provide for three named annual competition team awards in perpetuity.
- The fund will award prizes for the top two teams and the most improved team

3. Create Travel Award Fund (\$2M endowment)

- This fund will underwrite travel costs to national and regional competitions for selected competition team members.
- Award winners will be selected based on there annual contributions to the overall success of the team.

4. Direct Team Sponsorship Through Gifts and In-Kind Contributions

- Funds will be distributed to the teams to support their activities.
- Sponsors will be recognized on the Zink Center and team web sites.

Innovation Hub

Cultivates creative prototyping and essential business skills by Interdisciplinary teamwork

- Benefits for students include Incubator resources, business startup skills training, business competition opportunities, networking, and startup funding.
- Teams bring together CEAT and Spears students who desire to launch a technology-based business.
- Team guidance focused on successful business launch provided by a partnership between the Zink Center, the Riata Center, the Spears School of Entrepreneurship, and the CEAT ENDEAVOR Laboratory.
- Teams include freshman students for a unique multi-semester mentoring opportunity with upper-class CEAT and Spears students.



Funding Strategy:

1. Create Innovation Scholars Program (\$5M endowment)

- This program will be designed to recruit top students to an immersive, multidisciplinary experience focused on product ideation, design, development and market launch.
- It will include enrichment activities, programs start-up workshops, and recruitment scholarships.

2. Create Innovation Prize Fund (\$1M endowment)

- This fund will provide for three named annual awards in perpetuity.
- The awards will be designed to complement existing Riata Center competitions and will focus on technical excellence, innovation and collaboration.

3. Create Innovation Makerspaces within Endeavor (3 named spaces in Endeavor)

- The makerspaces will provide Zink Center Innovation teams with resources and collaborative spaces in a stimulating and mentoring environment.
- They will be outfitted with hardware and software to support rapid prototyping and product design.

Industry Sponsored Projects, Seminars, and Competition Teams

Provides industry sponsors with opportunities to engage and connect with CEAT students.

- **Sponsored Projects:** Semester long interdisciplinary senior design projects are developed by sponsors in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary senior design coordinator. Sponsored project teams meet regularly with their sponsors throughout the semester.
- **Sponsored Seminars:** Zink Center seminars feature a reception, signage information table, and keynote speaker. the sponsor's representatives have the opportunity to meet informally with students during the reception and after the seminar.
- **Sponsored Competition Teams:** Competition team sponsors underwrite the annual cost of materials, supplies and travel for the Zink Center competition teams. The sponsor's logo is featured on the Zink Center competition team web site and on the competition vehicle. Sponsors are invited to attend the annual Zink Center fall barbeque where they can meet and interact with all Zink Center competition team student members.



Funding Strategy:

1. The Zink Center Excellence Fund (non-endowed funds)

- **Sponsored projects** require a commitment to attend weekly design meetings online, and to participate in person in project evaluations at the end-of-semester design expo. Projects are selected from a list of available projects by the student teams. Upon selection, a sponsored project requires \$5,000 in sponsor support plus materials and supplies.
- **Sponsored seminars** require \$10,000 in sponsor support and coordination with the Zink Center leadership. All logistics and expenses, including the catered reception, and speaker engagement will be handled by Zink Center staff.
- **Sponsored Competition Teams:** Competition teams may be sponsored at three levels: \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. Sponsors are encouraged, but not required, to engage with their team. In kind donations of materials, supplies, and travel costs solicited by the team are welcome.

Note: Inquiries about 'Ways to Give' can be directed to:

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