

11 faculty, staff teams from University of Colorado nab entrepreneurship awards

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Eleven teams of CU faculty and staff have been offered seed funding, ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each, as part of the Entrepreneurship Initiative administered by the Silicon Flatirons Center at the University of Colorado Law School.

Winning teams and their proposed projects are:

Francy Milner, Susan Clarke (business/political science): A model for CU-Boulder undergraduates to work collaboratively and entrepreneurially to address social and environmental problems.

Michael Theodore (music): The development of open-source hardware and software designs for technology-driven public art installations such as those that are found in airports. Such art installations involving sensors, motors and lights, for example, can have implications for assistive technology as well.

Don Grant (sociology): Creation of the first social entrepreneurship program for Colorado health care professionals with the goal of establishing a statewide network of experiential labs to train undergraduates to be "patient navigators" who guide clients to basic resources for good health like food, housing and heating assistance, lowering hospital readmission rates.

Erick Mueller (business): An initiative to broaden and strengthen the teaching of entrepreneurship across campus.

Al Smith, Morley McBride (business): A boot camp to help students learn "design thinking," which entails inspiration through empathy, creative ideation and iterative design cycles utilizing quick prototypes and user feedback. Students will discover an innovative, human-centered approach to problem solving that they can apply throughout life to academic, entrepreneurial or personal pursuits.

Rebecca Komarek (Catalyze CU/Idea Forge/engineering): The building of resources at CU-Boulder to further foster research commercialization and local industry



collaboration, providing students with a strong understanding of a disciplined approach to entrepreneurship and innovation.

Richard Han (computer science): Strengthening an existing computer science capstone course, incorporating biweekly micro-pitch competitions and student-led peer investments to mature student product development and entrepreneurship savvy.

Kathy Ramirez-Aguilar (CU Green Labs): A campus website to transfer furniture and lab equipment from departments with surplus to departments in need, reducing costs and diverting waste.

Lupita Montoya (engineering): The integration of entrepreneurship principles focusing on the needs of Latino and Native American communities in an existing sustainable design course taught in a Residential Academic Program, expanding the course offering to all majors.

Sharon Matusik (business): The formation of a national conference at CU-Boulder exploring new hybrid organizations -- such as accelerators, crowdsourcing and funding platforms -- and entrepreneurship.

Melissa Hart (law): Developing a plan for the creation of Colorado's first modest-means law firm incubator enabling new lawyers to acquire the skills necessary to launch their own successful practices and offer legal services at affordable rates.

To learn more, visit colorado.edu/entrepreneurship/