Empowering Women Innovators

Gender biases have long permeated nearly all areas of society, from education to government, from business to healthcare. For entrepreneurial-minded women, and particularly women of color, there is a lack of access to market opportunities, venture capital funding, and mentoring networks compared to opportunities accessible to their male counterparts.

With the Women’s Interdisciplinary Society of Entrepreneurship (WISE), Northeastern University students are evening the playing field. This student-led organization is dedicated to advancing women interested in creating ventures, developing an innovative mindset, and connecting with peers and industry leaders. Through interactive workshops, a thought incubator, and mentorship pairings, WISE is inspiring the next generation of female entrepreneurs to launch their ideas with confidence and a strong support system.

With philanthropic support, WISE will continue the imperative work of equipping these budding entrepreneurs with more learning opportunities, a robust network of mentors, and grants to elevate their ideas and businesses to the next level.

Northeastern WISE:
Supporting the Next Generation of Female Entrepreneurs

WISE’s Programs

WeLearn is a series of interactive entrepreneurship workshops and discussions led by trailblazing industry experts and founders from all sectors, who teach personal and professional skills in a collaborative environment.

WeBuild is a semester-long program composed of a small cohort of women focused on building relationships and developing entrepreneurial skills. Students build out a venture or business idea and conclude with a showcase presentation of their passion project.

WeSupport is a mentorship pipeline for students, alumni, and advocates of WISE. Each mentee is matched with one mentor experienced in their career field of interest, creating connections and fostering personal and professional growth.

"My first thought was that WISE is me in a club! It’s entrepreneurship, it’s women, it’s the exact environment I’m looking for. I’m certain there will be more impact and initiative than ever seen before for women and non-binary students on campus—not just in opportunities, but through a cultural shift in the entrepreneurial community.”

—Hannah Chaouli, DMSB’23, co-director of WISE

18
passion projects created through WeBuild

60+
mentorship pairings started through WeSupport

15+
interactive and interdisciplinary workshops and table talks held through WeLearn
Investing In Women, Investing In The Future

Since its founding in 2018, WISE has armed students with an encouraging support system, valuable lessons from industry professionals, and the entrepreneurial skills to realize their ambitions. To further uplift and expand its offerings, WISE invites philanthropic support from likeminded partners who are committed to helping achieve our shared objectives. Opportunities for support include:

Expanding WeBuild—WISE seeks to continue advancing its members’ WeBuild passion projects, even after the semester-long program has concluded. With additional funding, this thought incubator will also allow for a larger cohort of students to learn, problem solve, and grow alongside one another while pursuing their ventures.

Backing the Leadership Trek—The Leadership Trek aims to bring the WISE team, made up of more than 20 accomplished students, on a trip to an innovation hub such as San Francisco, New York City, or London to connect with local entrepreneurs and mentors. Added financial backing make will this trip possible, and maximize the power and reach of a potential network, along with providing valuable hands-on learning opportunities.

Sponsoring the WISE Summit—This annual women’s entrepreneurship conference connects students with innovators, fosters connections among women beyond Northeastern and across Boston, highlights unconventional entrepreneurial paths, and makes entrepreneurship accessible to more women. WISE is currently seeking sponsorships to help kickstart the second annual summit.

“Globally, women make up 40 percent of entrepreneurs but struggle to access the capital, networks, and resources needed to scale their businesses—which means society is missing out on design and innovation by women for women. WISE provides students access to ideation support, diverse programs, and industry leaders that collectively help them build meaningful, inclusive lifelong networks.”

—Betsy Ludwig, executive director of Women’s Entrepreneurship

Northeastern University

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