



Supporting Venture Co-ops

*At the Michael J. and Ann Sherman Center
for Engineering Entrepreneurship*

The Michael J. and Ann Sherman Center for Engineering Entrepreneurship is a gem in the crown of Northeastern's entrepreneurship ecosystem. It draws hundreds of students each year who want to partake in the university's entrepreneurship community and grow as innovators, thinkers, and leaders.

Students who use the Sherman Center are usually working toward the goal of turning their concepts into products, services, and businesses. That's where venture co-ops come in. These special, highly coveted positions enable both undergraduate and graduate students to take six months to polish and launch their ideas while being paid a modest salary to cover expenses. But the supply of venture co-ops available doesn't meet the demand, so some students' entrepreneurship dreams can languish as a result.

With philanthropy, we can offer more of these potentially life-changing positions, bringing new inventions to market, and positioning more students for lives of entrepreneurial gratification and success.

"As an engineering student starting a business, one of my first steps was looking to Northeastern's resources to ensure that my technology could be successful commercially."

*—Samantha Johnson, E'21, MS'21,
founder, Tatum Robotics*



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO TRANSFORM LIVES

Establishing more venture co-ops in the Sherman Center for Engineering Entrepreneurship will attract motivated students with high-quality ideas who wish to better understand the complicated process of entrepreneurship. Possible funding opportunities include:

1. A gift of \$100,000 to support five students.

This venture co-op, payable over five years, will provide five Northeastern innovators with the opportunity to focus solely on developing their own ventures for a six-month co-op period, supported by philanthropy.

2. A gift of \$200,000 to back 10 co-op students.

This gift will support 10 student-entrepreneurs total to develop their own venture concepts and potentially launch them over a six-month period. It can be paid over as many as five years.

3. An endowed gift of \$500,000 to back one student per year in perpetuity.

Endowed gifts are special because they keep on supporting students year after year—and they can be named in honor of the donor or a loved one. A gift of this size will support one venture co-op student every year in perpetuity, ensuring a wonderful legacy for the donor and the students who benefit.

A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR VENTURE CO-OPS

- Venture co-ops were launched from the Sherman Center for Engineering Entrepreneurship in **2016**
- The Sherman Center comprises more than **700** community members from across the university
- More than **40** entrepreneurship organizations back venture co-ops at the Sherman Center

AN IMMERSIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVE

The venture co-op program promotes interdisciplinary student entrepreneurship, product development, and leadership at all academic levels. Fueled by the global Northeastern entrepreneurial ecosystem, this donor-funded initiative blends resources from more than 40 entrepreneurial organizations and multiple campuses around the world to fully immerse students in an experience rarely seen in or out of the classroom.

Venture co-ops have included participants from every Northeastern college and school, and from a diverse set of interdisciplinary backgrounds. Participating students also benefit from the expertise of the Northeastern University Center for Entrepreneurship Education, the Roux Institute, the McCarthy(s) Venture Mentoring Network (VMN), and Mosaic, an impressive set of 11 student-led organizations that provide support to all Northeastern ventures.



“The Sherman Center at Northeastern funded my and another student’s co-op so we could work full time on BusRight. Having a university that will support you in diving in headfirst has been absolutely transformative.”

*—Keith Corso, DMSB’21,
co-founder and CEO, BusRight, LLC*

IMPACT AND PARTNERSHIP

Philanthropic giving will ensure that our remarkable student entrepreneurs receive access to a makerspace, mentoring, connections, and salary throughout the duration of their co-op at the Sherman Center. In addition, they will be guided by seasoned Northeastern staff and faculty, including a student entrepreneur-in-residence.

Gifts to fund venture co-ops through the Sherman Center will help continue to build this supportive community within the university’s entrepreneurial landscape, one that positions students to become pioneers in their own right.

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