

# NELSON CENTER IMPACT REPORT



**BROWN TOGETHER**

**/THANK YOU**

**Gifts from generous alumni, parents, and friends allow us to build collaborative partnerships with departments across campus; invest in experiential programs that enrich our students through mentorship and internships; and support the exciting work of our talented faculty, staff, and students through venture support.**

The Jonathan M. Nelson Center has, since opening its doors in 2016, taught entrepreneurship as a method of inquiry and problem solving across and beyond campus. A cutting-edge focus on collaboration has led to partnerships with more than 30 departments and centers, including the School of Public Health and the Brown Arts Initiative, which we highlight in this report. Through our Synapse Trips and Entrepreneurship Internship Programs, we have enabled students to explore startup cultures and expand their perspectives on entrepreneurship, career, ideation, and leadership. In addition to our Venture Prizes, our students are supported through mentorship and peer support, which manifest in a wide range of co-curricular activities that include student organizations, workshops, speakers, and programs. These events have featured more than 300 alumni entrepreneurs and strengthen the multi-generational fabric of a growing community of scholars focused on the realm of entrepreneurship.

**Thank you for your support and partnership, which helps Brown sustain its academic excellence and continue to have a life-changing impact on the world.**

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**Brown University is the quintessential incubator for innovative research, teaching, and learning. Since the Jonathan M. Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship opened its doors in the fall of 2016, faculty, staff, and students have learned that entrepreneurship is a structured methodology for solving problems.**

Entrepreneurship is not solely about business. It can be learned and applied through a structured process in a wide range of contexts through the Open Curriculum, co-curricular activities, and venture support programs.

This entrepreneurial process comprises three fundamental approaches:

- + find and validate an unmet need,
- + develop a value proposition, and
- + create a sustainability model.

# LEADING THE WAY IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH AND CURRICULUM

Across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, we work with world-class researchers and practitioners to further scholarly inquiry in the realm of entrepreneurship. Over the past two years, we have welcomed renowned faculty to the center to teach and build a community of scholars and well-rounded entrepreneurs, focused on furthering research and our distinctively Brown approach to entrepreneurship:

- + **Howard Anderson**  
Senior Lecturer at Harvard Business School  
and MIT Sloan School  
Co-Founder, Battery Ventures  
*Entrepreneurial Management in Adversity*  
*Selling and Sales Leadership in  
Entrepreneurial Environments*
- + **Banu Ozkazanc-Pan, PhD**  
Visiting Associate Professor of Sociology,  
Brown University  
*Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems  
for Economic Inclusion*  
*The Future of Work*
- + **Rafael La Porta, PhD**  
Robert J. and Nancy D. Carney University  
Professor of Economics  
*Venture Capital, Private Equity,  
and Entrepreneurship*
- + **Bobby Pakzad-Hurson, PhD**  
Jonathan M. Nelson Assistant Professor  
of Economics and Entrepreneurship  
*Designing Internet Marketplaces*
- + **Jennifer Nazareno, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Public Health  
and Entrepreneurship  
*Intersectionality, Health Disparities  
and the Role of Entrepreneurship*  
*Global Dynamics in Immigrant  
Entrepreneurship*
- + **Larry Rand, PhD '64, P'93**  
Visiting Associate Professor of the Practice  
in Economics and Entrepreneurship  
*GISP on Shareholder Activism*  
*GISP on Quarterly Earnings*
- + **Linda Scott, PhD**  
Visiting Scholar and Professor Emeritus  
*DP World Chair of Entrepreneurship  
and Innovation, University of Oxford*

# Research Spotlight: Brown International Advanced Research Institutes



During June of 2018, Professors Nazareno and Scott embodied our interdisciplinary efforts through their leadership with Brown International Advanced Research Institutes. The initiative convenes early-career scholars and practitioners from around the world to address pressing global issues through collaboration across academic, professional, and geographic boundaries.

Nazareno and Scott focused on providing a foundational knowledge of social entrepreneurship as a field of practice and research; a critical review of social entrepreneurship curriculum and pedagogy; and an examination of case studies from successful and failed partnerships in social entrepreneurial endeavors and research projects.

## Faculty Spotlight



### Jason Harry, PhD Professor of the Practice of Engineering Director, Breakthrough Lab (B-Lab)

Jason Harry has over 30 years of commercial and academic experience in the medical device field as both a founder and CEO. He teaches two essential courses associated with entrepreneurship and passionately leads B-Lab, the Nelson Center's eight-week summer accelerator.

"It is a great time to be associated with entrepreneurship at Brown, because it has recently seen a dramatic rise in profile, capacity, and impact on campus and beyond. For me, it provides a reason and locus to bring my professional

experiences, blended when helpful with my technical background, into the classroom as instructor and into B-Lab as venture coach and advisor.

"Not every student wants to create a start-up company, nor should they. But there are critical concepts and processes to solving problems and making progress with limited resources that can be taught, learned, and applied to many professional and life circumstances. I believe that entrepreneurial training at Brown can be on equal footing with other disciplines as having high intellectual and practical significance for students' future lives.

"In B-Lab, the organizing construct is venture creation and progress. A crucial parallel goal, however, is the development of the individual student as a confident professional, an able and constructive collaborator, and someone who is ready to have lasting and positive impact on the world."



# CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

## AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Because distinctive and **better entrepreneurial solutions result through interdisciplinary collaboration**, the Nelson Center partners with more than 30 departments and campus centers including the School of Public Health, the Brown Arts Initiative, the First-Generation and Low Income Center (FLi Center), the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, and the Carney Institute for Brain Science. Together, they intentionally provide learners the opportunity to innovate, ideate, and take action.

This approach ensures that we:

- + identify and consider a wider range of problems,
- + foster a richer set of potential solutions to those problems, and
- + encourage more expansive thinking about the models used to support those solutions at scale.

**32** Brown departments,  
centers & organizations  
taking part in new programs  
and collaborations

**150+** events across  
campus to date

# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Don Operario (Professor, School of Public Health) conducts research with colleagues at Anhui Medical University (China) to implement and test the use of a mobile application that can provide remote counseling, support, and referrals to people who are using at-home HIV self-test kits.

## **Don Operario, PhD**

**Associate Dean for the School of Public Health**

“Regularly, public health research involves a process of problem identification and intervention or product design and development, evaluation, and then dissemination. The Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship introduces a focus on interventions that are scalable and desirable, that cause people to want to use the knowledge, tools, and information in order to better their own health and the health of their communities. We want to identify what will spread like wildfire throughout a community or throughout a broader population.

“If we see entrepreneurship through a lens of problem identification, product development, product assessment, and product use by the audience or the user community that needs it, we can see a methodology that harmonizes perfectly with the mission of public health.

“This is the year where we start to sketch out a blueprint for making this happen. And it makes sense that Brown is the place to make it happen. It is a University built on a human scale that allows people to bump into each other and realize that they have more in common than they would have otherwise thought. These commonalities make it almost impossible for them not to want to work together and identify ways to harmonize their student-driven mission and their research-driven mission.”



**Jennifer Nazareno, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Public Health and Entrepreneurship**

“My mother’s own journey as an immigrant, nurse, and woman entrepreneur has greatly influenced my research interests. My lived experience entails the complex intersection between public health and entrepreneurship. At Brown, I work to bridge these two worlds by using my background in applied research and my personal history with entrepreneurship. The partnership through my dual appointment will hopefully aid students, faculty and researchers in broadening their perspectives around entrepreneurship as they seek to create change in the health and long-term care space.

“In the classroom, and in research, context matters. In both my public health and entrepreneurship courses, I engage the intersectionality of various social statuses including race, gender, class, immigrant status, age, and sexuality as well as examine the simultaneity of agency and inequity of power and privilege. In relation to entrepreneurship, my goal is to assist students uncover the social underpinnings behind either their own entrepreneurial pursuits and/or the entrepreneurs they want to study.

“Through my research, I bring to light the work of women, immigrants, and minorities and provide critical perspectives on how entrepreneurship has served as a potential pathway toward inclusion and economic mobility, particularly in times of marginalization and exclusion.”

**Featured Course: Public Health and Entrepreneurship**

Illuminating the role that minorities and women have played in the field of public health.

## Brown Hack Health

For the past several years, entrepreneurship focused conferences and hackathons have flourished in large part due to student interest expressed through events such as the Women’s Entrepreneurship Conference (WE@Brown) and Startup@Brown. In addition, students have been holding a public health hackathon with great success.



### Emily Yamron '21

Concentration: Public Health  
Co-President, Brown Hack Health

“As we planned Brown Hack Health, we found that people often view entrepreneurship and health care as conflicting entities. Most equate entrepreneurship as the drive to make a lot of money. We see entrepreneurship as a way to make things function more effectively and more efficiently. There’s an incredible need for that in health care.

“The Hackathon is a weekend-long event that includes professional networking, conceptual brainstorming of problems to ‘hack,’ team-planning sessions to develop innovative solutions, and

panel judging. Our ‘hacks’ have run the gamut from developing prosthetics to enabling access to low-cost produce for people who need it most. This year, we’re working very closely with both the Nelson Center and the School of Public Health to follow up and make sure that people can move forward with their ideas in a scalable way in order to make the largest impact.

“Working with the Nelson Center has been an absolutely wonderful experience. They’ve been incredible partners, helping us expand our view of what we want the Hackathon to be, helping us find resources—from sponsors, to mentors, to judges—and helping us strive for excellence in our Hackathon. I really don’t know what more we could ask for.”

# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: BROWN ARTS INITIATIVE



## Anne Bergeron

Managing Director, Brown Arts Initiative

“We see The Brown Arts Initiative (BAI) as an entrepreneurial startup: Entrepreneurship and the arts have a natural congruence. Because we share many of the same values and approaches to creative problem solving, we view the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship as comrades in arms as we work to build the BAI.

“We are grateful that Brown has an innovative ecosystem of creative thinkers that marries centers and initiatives like the Nelson Center and the BAI. This is a rare combination in academia—the intellectual space to ‘dream big’ combined

with the support to realize those dreams. The Nelson Center team is an inspiration to everyone working with them. Our students benefit immensely, and we look forward to continued collaborations with them.”

## Featured Events

### Fall 2016: Music, Tech, + Entrepreneurship: A Creative Workshop

This half-day workshop featured Brown faculty, staff, and students along with guest speaker Panos Panay, Managing Director at the Berklee Institute for Creative Entrepreneurship.

### Fall 2017: Sound Ideas: “Close Listening, Podcasting And The New Radio”

This two-day series of workshops, presentations, and panel discussions highlighted the role of sonic media and the power of listening in the world of new radio and podcasting. “Sound Ideas” featured Rhode Island Public Radio’s CEO and general manager Torey Malatia, podcaster Morra Aaron-Mele ’98, sound artist Alan Nakagawa, and a performance by Chris Hoff and Sam Harnett, hosts of the podcast “The World According to Sound.”

# MENTORSHIP AND VENTURE SUPPORT

In addition to our scholarly and educational mission, we support venture creation across a range of industries and in various forms. This includes mentorship, grantmaking, our premier summer accelerator Breakthrough Lab, the Brown Venture Prize competition, and the Brown Venture Founders program. The Nelson Center also helps ventures connect with outside resources to assist with their transition beyond campus.

## Brown Venture Prize Pitch

By the numbers

**64** (in FY18) explore and expand grant applications (vs. 18 in FY17)

**47** applications for 8 Pitch Night spots

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**250**

Sold out Pitch Night tickets

**200**

on overflow list

**50+**

alumni watched Livestream

# Peer Entrepreneur-in-Residence Spotlight

The Peer Entrepreneur-In-Residence (PEIR) program is a critical part of the Nelson Center's Venture Support resources. In it, students serve as mentors and additional resources for their fellow students. Whether exploring an unmet need, designing a value proposition, or developing a sustainability model, PEIRs work with founders to clarify and sharpen their ideas. Many PEIRs, through their own ventures or through internships and other experiences, have knowledge of particular sectors and can help refer students to additional resources.



## **Samaneh Mahbub '19**

**Concentration: History**

"I always knew I was interested in entrepreneurship but didn't know where to start. The advice I received from one-on-one office hours with PEIRs helped me get started on the venture I'm currently working on now. Seeing the impact the PEIRs made on me motivated me to apply to become a PEIR myself. I want to help fellow students the way fellow students helped me."



## **Valentin Perez '18**

**Concentration: Applied Math, Computer Science**

"I loved that as a Peer Entrepreneur-in-Residence, I could listen to super excited students, and after our chat they would be even more excited. Student-to-student interactions are invaluable tools that help peers and colleagues feel truly understood."

## Mentor Spotlight



### **Deb Mills Scofield '82** Mentoring Maven at the Nelson Center

"I love mentoring Brown students and aspiring entrepreneurs. Mentoring is a way for me to continually learn, challenge my orthodoxies, stay on top of my game, stay able to adapt, hone the skill of asking great questions, and stay hopeful about the future. Working with Brown's students keeps me fresh and aware. In this way, we are always helping each other."

## Panelist Spotlight



### **Xochitl Gonzalez '99** Co-founder: The Gate, Inc. Panelist, Entrepreneurial Stories From First-Generation and People of Color Alumni

"Entrepreneurship is the perfect pursuit for the curious mind, as it's an endless series of 'problems' waiting to be solved. Being back on campus and conversing with students, I realized the full breadth of the Nelson Center's potential for this community. The Nelson Center has to give our students the tools to channel today's ideas into tomorrow's entrepreneurial ventures."

# World-Class Leader Spotlight



## Stephen Porder, PhD

Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Environment and Society (IBES)

The central aim of the work by Associate Professor Stephen Porder and his colleagues is to restore the Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlantica) in Brazil. This important ecosystem has been almost entirely altered by human land use, as this strip of land along the Atlantic coast of Brazil was the first to be colonized and farmed.

Here at Brown, Porder has been integral in the development of the Program for Environmental and Civic Engagement (PECE), a collaborative initiative of the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES) and the Jonathan M. Nelson Center for

Entrepreneurship. In early 2018, seeking to inspire students to take action and bring their ideas to life, Professor Porder initiated a partnership with the Nelson Center. Together, IBES and the Nelson Center offer early-stage venture grants for undergraduate and graduate students interested in developing entrepreneurial solutions to environmental problems (PECE grants). Students are encouraged to create innovative solutions to problems at the nexus of environment and society, with the goal of stimulating solutions-based ventures that promote a healthier, more sustainable future society. This collaboration assists students' development of entrepreneurial solutions to environmental issues by providing them with resources, including funding and advising.

“I spend the semester teaching students about all of the ways that climate change is adversely impacting the planet and human wellbeing. It’s pretty depressing stuff, and I am always asked, ‘what can we do?’ What’s great about this new partnership with the Nelson Center is that I can steer students with interests in sustainability and entrepreneurship towards this program, and say, ‘The solutions to these problems don’t lie in policymaking, science, or activism alone. Entrepreneurs can, and must, play a role.’ The Nelson Center teaches how to build creative solutions to problems, and that’s what we need now more than ever. It’s a great partnership.”

- Stephen Porder, PhD

## Venture Student Spotlight



### **Michelle Petersen '18**

**Concentration: Public Policy, Public Health**

“I’m now working full time on a software business, TextUp, that I co-founded three years ago while at Brown. My company received \$10,000 from the Brown Venture Prize pitch competition and then \$50,000 from the Brown Venture Founder award. This funding is not only keeping me fed and housed during this initial year of full-time work, but is also supporting my co-founder. Without this financial backing, we wouldn’t have been able to realize the potential of the company we’d already invested three years of tireless work into.

“The support we’ve gotten from the Nelson Center, however, runs much deeper than just funding. Danny Warshay’s bottom-up research program gave my co-founder and me the tools we needed to properly research our market need. Mentoring from Jason Harry (Breakthrough Lab Director), Jonas Clark (Nelson Center Associate Director), and other Nelson Center staff gave us the confidence to call and think of ourselves as entrepreneurs. TextUp would not have the potential it holds today without the insight and care the Nelson Center has provided us with at every stage of our development.

“The Nelson Center has immeasurably enriched my life—personally and professionally—as well as the lives of my co-founder and countless peers.”

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**“TextUp would not have the potential it holds today without the insight and care the Nelson Center has provided us with at every stage of our development.”**

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## Incubator Spotlight



### **Haley Hoffman Smith '18** Founder, [HerBigIdea.org](https://www.herbigidea.org)

“The Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship has been, without a doubt, the most central and empowering resource from my time at Brown. When I approached the Nelson Center about my desire to start an incubator for female founders, they funded our weekly dinners and provided me with all the support I needed so I could help over 30 female students bring their ideas to life. When I approached the center about establishing a partnership to give women more funding for their ideas, they didn’t hesitate to support me wholeheartedly. I feel forever grateful to have been gifted the magic and purpose this center has only just begun to inspire.”

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**“When I approached the center about establishing a partnership to give women more funding for their ideas, they didn’t hesitate to support me wholeheartedly.”**

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# BEYOND COLLEGE HILL: EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship is an increasingly global endeavor with connections that span far beyond College Hill. The Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship—in conjunction with BrownConnect in the Center for Careers and Life after Brown (CareerLAB)—supports a variety of fully funded opportunities that enable students like those highlighted here to explore startup cultures and expand their perspectives on entrepreneurship, ideation, and leadership.

# SYNAPSE TRIPS

The Synapse trips, first started by students in the Brown Entrepreneurship Program (EP), traditionally took Brown students to cities in the United States for one to three days, immersing them in startup cultures and introducing them to founders and industry leaders. Cities included Boston, New York City, and San Francisco; and past site visits included Ellevest, MongoDB, and BuzzFeed.

## International Startup Synapses

Thanks to a generous donation, in the spring of 2018, in collaboration with BrownConnect, six Brown students explored the entrepreneurship culture of Barcelona, Spain. Students met with founders, incubators, and leaders who expanded their professional network and shared a variety of entrepreneurial career paths. We will return to Barcelona this year and are adding London.

**6** students (5 fluent in Spanish) visited 8 startups in the Barcelona Spring Break Synapse

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**25** students visited 6 companies in the New York City EP Synapse

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**15** students visited Nexamp, TripAdvisor, BookBub and LearnLaunch on the Boston Synapse



## **Julia Sepulveda Avalos '20**

### **Concentration: International Relations**

“Barcelona Synapse was truly an opportunity of a lifetime; I could not have envisioned or planned a better experience. In addition to providing an unforgettable introduction to the startup culture, the Synapse proved to be a catalyst for self-reflection and intergroup dialogue. Before this trip, I was not convinced of my fit. I lacked the confidence to communicate clearly and concisely with CEOs and the startup community at large. This trip allowed me to engage with entrepreneurs in a way that inspired, validated, and empowered me to seek out my own projects in the future.

“Meeting with and learning from entrepreneurs was rewarding, and our conversations gave me a different framework for thinking about startups. I was able to add a layer of depth to my understanding of what constitutes success, and how risky the entrepreneurial world can be. Entrepreneurs did not shy away from speaking about the challenges, fears, and failures they have faced, as well as the successes they have attained. Despite their diversity, entrepreneurs stressed a few common values: complementarity, resilience, and social consciousness.

“I was surprised to see the ways in which Spanish and American practices diverged, illuminating the differences in entrepreneurial culture between the two countries. Brown University alumnus Michael Lin '13 highlighted the ways in which the Spanish government supports different ventures. Spanish culture promotes collectivity and provides a safety net that may not be present everywhere in the United States.

“Barcelona Synapse allowed me to connect with leaders, learn from their personal stories, and gain a better understanding of what it takes to lead a startup—all while exploring a new city. As a first-generation, low-income, Latina student, I had never imagined such an amazing opportunity would be granted to me. Most importantly, this trip helped me cultivate a different understanding of myself: as the sole native Spanish speaker on the trip, I gained confidence about the value of my linguistic abilities. Spain was an adventure that I will never forget. None of this would have been possible without the support of BrownConnect and the Nelson Center. Thank you!”

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Through a partnership with BrownConnect, our Entrepreneurship Internship Programs provide Brown students with opportunities to intern at startups and to expand their classroom knowledge to the world of business through an immersive professional experience.

To date, the Nelson Center has collaborated with startups and founders in Israel and Stockholm, where startup cultures flourish. Employers in these cities hold positions for Brown students to intern over the summer for 8-10 weeks, attending networking events, participating in entrepreneurship-themed learning experiences, and meeting alumni working in those cities.

## Israel Entrepreneurship Summer Internship



**Lauren Kotin '18**  
Concentration: History

“At Brown, I became very involved in the entrepreneurship community, both on the student-facilitated side as a leader of the marketing and design team for Brown’s Entrepreneurship Program (Brown EP), and on the administrative-led side as a Student Coordinator for the Jonathan M. Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship. Additionally, during the summer of 2017, I participated in the Israel Entrepreneurship Internship Program, where I worked for a small tech startup called MUV Interactive. I lived in Tel Aviv and commuted to MUV’s office in Herzliya, a small tech hub north of the city.

“As a marketing and design intern at MUV Interactive, a startup that produces a wearable smart device called the Bird, I became thoroughly embedded in the company’s welcoming and inclusive culture; they empowered me to be confident. I also substantially developed my graphic design skills. By the end of the summer, the company felt more like a family. I attended office gatherings outside of work and gained incredible knowledge of the subtleties in working at a foreign startup and living in another country. This experience was instrumental in my job search this past year.

“Thank you very much to all who helped build this community and the amazing resources it provides to Brown students. I hope that, in the coming years, this program will only grow and become stronger.”

# Sweden Entrepreneurship Summer Internship



## Sea-Jay Van der Ploeg '19

Concentration: International Relations

“Last summer, I interned at Qalora Capital (formerly Angelr). Started by a group of entrepreneurial Stockholm School of Economics alumni, Qalora scans the Nordic/European region for promising companies. I was able to immerse myself in numerous European startups, and I loved learning about cutting-edge technology, especially those particular to our region such as fintech, cleantech, gaming, even music production.

“I also learned the nuances of working in a startup setting in a different country. The staff and work culture there were both productive and supportive. I noticed a huge emphasis

on a healthy work-life balance and even witnessed my supervisor run his first marathon.

“Finally, as an international relations concentrator, this experience solidified my interest in pursuing business and entrepreneurship on a global scale. While in Stockholm, I was able to source and connect with individuals/companies across Europe—from London to Finland to Berlin. Through this and also by way of the networking events, I was introduced to opportunities that made me very excited for a more open, connected future.”



# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship is committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive group of students, staff, faculty, parents, alumni, and communities—both locally and internationally. In fostering our mission to make entrepreneurship an essential part of the Brown experience, diversity, in its multiple dimensions and intersections—including race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, veteran status, physical ability, religion and other forms of identity—is essential to how we approach and teach entrepreneurship.

We respect and value all members and affiliates of the Nelson Center community, and we aim to create programs that encourage all voices to be heard. As we promote open dialogue and debate and inspire creative thinking and design, we believe entrepreneurship is a critical methodology for solving today's local and global challenges. As the Jonathan M. Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship pursues its mission to educate future entrepreneurial leaders through providing collaborative programming, producing interdisciplinary scholarship, and achieving repeatable and scalable impact through application and practice, we believe that our achievements stem from the commitment to the principles of diversity and inclusion.

From the Center's beginning, we have hosted events, collaborated with on-campus and off-campus partners, and offered courses that demonstrate this commitment. In December of 2016, we launched a research conference entitled Entrepreneurship at the Intersection of Diversity and Inclusion, a panel with the First Generation and Low Income center featuring historically underrepresented startup founders, a Women's Empowerment conference, the course Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Economic Inclusion, and new partnerships with community organizations such as Practico Innovation and Intracity Geeks.



# OUR NEW HOME

## 249 THAYER STREET

The Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship will soon have a dedicated home on Thayer Street—the main commercial artery of College Hill. This building will do so much more than just provide physical space; it will further our mission of making entrepreneurship an essential part of the Brown experience.

We envision 249 Thayer Street, located right across the street from the Brown bookstore, as an integral part of the Brown ecosystem. This 10,000-square-foot four-story new structure will provide space for student ventures, events, entrepreneurs-in-residence, visiting faculty, and student organizations like the Brown Entrepreneurship Program (EP).

As explained in Brown University's recent official announcement, "This will encourage the kind of accidental collisions between experts and disciplines that are central to entrepreneurship and to the missions of both the center and Brown."

We would like to thank all the people involved in this process so far, especially Jonathan M. Nelson '77, whose \$25 million transformational gift catalyzed the center's launch. In addition, we'd like to thank the brilliant architects at 3SIXØ, whose eye for design will make this space ideal for collaboration and community; and Charles M. Davis '82, P'13, P'16 and Jan P. Davis '83, P'13, P'16 and family—Brown graduates of 1982 and 1983, respectively, and the parents of two Brown graduates—whose early financial support will create co-working resources in the new building where student teams can collaborate as they develop and launch new ventures.

[entrepreneurship.brown.edu](http://entrepreneurship.brown.edu)



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