

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Workshop – Jackson State University

Location: Hinds County, Mississippi

Status of County: Rural

Project Timeframe: May 2019 – January 2020

Type of Assistance: Technical Assistance

In May 2019, a Georgia Tech (GT) Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center (UC) team member was invited to Jackson State University (JSU)'s, Tech Transfer Office to deliver four days of workshops for faculty, staff, students and community members. Thirty people participated in the focused, intensive workshops, with the intention of increasing awareness of innovation, commercialization, and entrepreneurship on campus. Participants were representatives from the entrepreneurship center, social sciences, technology transfer, and research office on campus. Representatives from JSU handled all workshop logistics. The GT EDA UC team's collaboration with JSU was intended to increase JSU's commercialization grants, investments into research conducted on campus, and the creation of two part-time jobs and one full-time job.

Due to JSU's emerging commercialization and technology transfer practice and their efforts that led to the opening of its Innovation Center, in July 2020, the GT EDA UC team nominated JSU's Innovation Center for consideration under the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) annual Awards of Excellence competition in the Innovation category. This category encompasses basic research; applied, translational, problem-

oriented, and industry-contracted R&D; cooperative extension services; technology transfer; etc.

JSU's Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development was developed to help foster innovation and entrepreneurship. The Center is unique as it serves multiple purposes: infuse a culture of innovation among faculty, staff and students; change the entrepreneurial mindset of Underrepresented Minorities; provide a space with resources to help infuse technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the student learning and faculty delivery of courses; and foster collaboration between industry and university.

The Center also includes a makerspace equipped with 11- 3D printers, a 25-station XR Academy, 5 collaboration rooms, an A/V production room, and a 75-seat training area, conveniently located in the main library. Sponsors provide access to new technologies and support the Innovation Fellows program. The Innovation Fellows are change agents who are empowered to drive innovation on campus and are an integral part of the Center.



Photo from hcbuconnect.com



Photo from By David Benbennick - The maps use data from nationalatlas.gov, specifically county020.tar.gz on the Raw Data Download page. The maps also use state outline data from statesp020.tar.gz. The Florida maps use hydrogm020.tar.gz to display Lake Okeechobee., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=571455>