

MURPHY CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

History

In 1999, two successful local entrepreneurs, Ken and Shirley Murphy, recognized the opportunity to help other entrepreneurs alleviate some of the problems they had to endure in owning and operating their own business. They saw their alma mater, the University of North Texas, as the perfect opportunity to provide students with the foundation for entrepreneurial education. With their donation The Murphy Enterprise Center opened its doors on November 15, 2000 as a division of the Department of Management within the College of Business.

The center was renamed Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship in January 2009, reports to the Dean of the College of Business, and now serves the entire UNT community. The name was changed to better reflect the center's mission of supporting student entrepreneurs in all disciplines. The Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of North Texas promotes entrepreneurial initiative through programs and partnerships among students, faculty, administrators and local businesses. Under the leadership of Tony Mendes, Ph.D., MBA, the Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship is a resource for the entire UNT campus, supporting innovation and creativity, encouraging venture formation and providing opportunity to develop skills that lead to entrepreneurial success.

Key Initiatives

Workshops

Designed to stimulate creative ideas and unique approaches to being *entrepreneurial*, the workshops offer strategies and skills required for success. A broad range of entrepreneurial interests; including business formation, social entrepreneurship, and corporate entrepreneurship are demonstrated through the workshop series. Workshops are less than 2 hours in length and are focused on entrepreneurial execution.

Speakers Series

We collaborate with other colleges, departments, and organizations on the UNT campus and in our community to invite locally and nationally recognized speakers to share their unique

approaches to entrepreneurship. Students are encouraged to engage with well-known entrepreneurs through highly interactive and informative sessions.

IDEA Competition

With over 36,000 students on the UNT campus, there are hundreds of *ideas* that can change the world. This IDEA Competition provides the opportunity for students to express those ideas. The competition involves students giving two minute *pitches* to a panel of judges, with monetary awards and a chance to have dinner with the judging panel. Open to all students, this competition is co-sponsored by colleges, departments and entrepreneurial organizations on campus.

The New Venture Creation Contest (NVCC)

The NVCC is an opportunity for new, independent ventures to soliciting start-up funds. The competition is intended to give UNT students the experience of soliciting funding from early-stage investors and venture capital firms. The competition is for new ventures created, managed, and owned by UNT students. Students must have played a major role in conceiving the venture, have key management roles in the venture, and own significant equity in the venture. Up to \$50,000 in total funding is awarded.

Annual Leadership Luncheon

The Leadership Luncheon has been an annual occurrence for the Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship since 2002 when General Norman Schwarzkopf was the Keynote Speaker. Our luncheon has featured high-profile speakers, including George Foreman, Nolan Ryan, and H. Ross Perot, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit with the business leaders of Dallas/Fort Worth. Proceeds from the Leadership Luncheon are used for scholarships, student awards, and programs offered through the Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship.

The 2009 BDO Seidman, LLP Leadership Luncheon will be held at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas on Friday, November 13, 2009. Student scholarships will be awarded, donors will be recognized, and the winners of the 2009 New Venture Creation Contest will be announced. Roger Staubach will deliver the keynote speech, *Facing the Challenge*. The Murphy Award, recognizing Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship will be awarded to Mark Speese; past recipients include Trammell Crow, H. Ross Perot, Ebby Halliday, and Sam Wyly.



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