

An Overview

The Blast Furnace is a student accelerator, started in 2015, which provides access to mentor networks, a co-working space, and a rich curriculum for student startups to prepare them to create and grow their business.

The Blast Furnace was created by the University of Pittsburgh's Innovation Institute for Pitt students at all levels who have a desire to be entrepreneurial, create new companies & receive hands-on-learning. The Blast Furnace is a first step on how to accomplish these dreams.

In these last three years, the Blast Furnace has established itself as the "go-to" place at Pitt for student entrepreneurs determined to accelerate & launch their startup ideas.

Hall of Fame

HIBERSENSE

<https://hibersense.com/>
Hibersense, the winners of the first cohort were invited to the inaugural University Startups Demo Day at Congress in Washington D.C. earlier last fall. They just pitched at Alpha Lab's Demo Day this May!

uTranslated

<https://www.utranslated.com/>
The winner of the second cohort, uTranslated, completed the super-selective AlphaLab accelerator last year in East Liberty. They were honored as an NCET2 Best University Startup in Washington D.C. this spring!



<http://www.pitt.edu/~vil21/theaquaponicsproject/home.html>

The winner of the third cohort, AquaCloud, last year demonstrated its aquaponics technology in downtown Pittsburgh.

aerOnics

<https://www.aeronicsinc.com/>

The winner of the fourth cohort, Aeronics, was also named NCET2 Best University Startups in Washington D.C. and won second place at Princeton University's TigerLaunch Finals competition.

Who will be next in our hall of fame as the winner of the fifth cohort? Find out tonight!

Thank You

We would especially like to thank Alan Martello, John Riley, Jeanine McCreary, Mary Beth Green, Tad Hale, Mark Adkins, and Henry Wilde for their involvement with the Blast Furnace. A special thank you is in order to Jonathan Hudson and his family who donated \$10,000 to the Blast Furnace Fellowship as well. Without them, none of this would be possible!

We sincerely thank others who have contributed their time to this worthwhile project. The 32 guest speakers that have presented and provided guidance and support to the startups, the mentors who have helped guide the thinking of the startups, and the other Executives in Residence (EIRs) who continually support throughout our program. We would also like to thank the judges who have continually supported us at each Demo Day. Lastly, we thank you, the audience for attending this event and for your support to the Blast Furnace student accelerator.

Contact Us!

If you think you have an idea or would like to get involved with a startup, please contact us. Cohort 6 of the Blast Furnace will begin Fall 2017.

<http://go.innovation.pitt.edu/blast-furnace-apply-cohort6>

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COHORT 5

Schedule

Welcome to Demo Day Cohort 5! Thanks for being here to celebrate our student entrepreneurs. It is a culmination of our 10-week accelerator program and will begin with 21 startups having just 60 seconds to tell us about their idea. With \$4,000 and the Blast Furnace Cup on the line the startups mean business!

Keynote Speaker

5:05 p.m.

Andy Hannah has been an entrepreneur since 1995, a calling that has stayed firmly with him ever since. He is the CEO of OHot and an Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship and Analytics and an Entrepreneur In Residence at Pitt Business.

Skip Car Round

5:20 p.m.

The 60-second pitch is a grueling task for a startup; think of it as an elevator pitch. The startups must pique your interest while condensing the market opportunity and revenue model for their business.

Fan Favorite Voting

5:45 p.m.

I've got a golden coin! Upon entry today, you received two gold coins. Save these for after you hear the 60-second pitches from the Skip Car Round. Vote for your favorite during the break! Please cast your vote by placing your coins in the cup for your team of choice!

Molten Iron Round

6:00 p.m.

The top 5 startups will present a 3-minute pitch for the final round voted on by the judges. Here the teams will highlight their solution for the problem they are trying to solve and have a 3-minute Q&A with the judges. You will learn more about their business model and their passion. They also have an opportunity to include what their "next-steps" are and what they need to move forward.

Awards Ceremony

6:45 p.m.

The first-place winner of Demo Day will be presented with a big check and the other winners will be recognized!

Cohort 5

Team and Team Leads (see pittblastfurnace.com for all team members)
*Teams will pitch in this order.

Ardoor - Marty Bacik

Simplifying real estate transactions by allowing homes to be sold without ever being listed

Arrive - Lot Serebour

Simplifying runners' lives by centralizing the planning associated with running events

Best4Baby - Alysia Tucker

Matching moms with local and affordable Doulas

Big Brother - Ningyu Qin

Caring about every international Chinese student

CheerOn - Chris Guirguis

A live-tracking solution for marathon runners and their spectators

CourseHub - Nikush Dalia

Developing a student run discussion board that allows students to converse freely about courses

Ediyu - Akhil Aniff

Helping college students achieve their academic goals and use their time more efficiently

EXG Buds - Ker-Jiun Wang

A wearable bio-metric information measurement system

Four Growers - Brandon Contino

Dedicated to improving the way we grow our food

H2Info Systems - Raanan Gurewitsch

An all-in-one solution for the millions of Americans facing the threat of lead water contamination

IntrXactions - Shannon Ye

Merging pharmacy prescription records and front-end sales data to flag potentially harmful combinations in real time

Journey Network - Evgeny Kostromskoy

Connecting travelers with locals who can show them the area and provide any support.

Modern-Day Minutemen - Swaroop Akkineni

Creating a community of hackers to defend our country through collaboration with U.S. Army Cyber Command

Oakland Brothers - Matt Mendelson

A college-run, all-in-one moving connect

Orb - Lauren Borrelli

Identifying top candidates for medical staffing

OxyGen - James Newton

Creating portable, inexpensive, and electricity-independent oxygen concentrators

pHresh - Sean McCarthy

Developing indication solutions for sanitation purposes

Red Ribbon Cure - Jay Venkatachari, Ph.D.

Enhancing the immune system of an individual infected with HIV

Solinus - Jay Murray

Developing an innovative solar kit for resource deprived areas

SoloSafe - Priya Chandrasekaran

A product that will alert people to the presence of drugs in their drinks via color change

Vishu - Chidi Nwakpuda

Your 3-D magic mirror that helps make your body goals a reality

The Shark Tank



Audrey Murrell

PittBusiness
College of Business Administration



Larry Miller

innovation works



Bobby Zappala

ASCENDER



Ilana Diamond

alphalab gear



Jonathan Hudson

HUDSON
COMPANIES

