

M&T BANK CENTER FOR INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2022–23 YEAR IN REVIEW

The M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship celebrated a banner year, highlighted by several new events and collaborations. Other highlights included our annual pitch competition with more than \$15,000 in prize money awarded to student entrepreneurs to help them launch their own businesses.

The M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship empowers and connects students, staff and faculty across all of Quinnipiac’s schools and academic disciplines to pursue their entrepreneurial ventures. We accomplish this by catalyzing students and faculty from all disciplines and backgrounds to help promising entrepreneurs learn ways to turn their ideas into practical businesses and uses.

We support faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, alumni, mentors and other internal and external partners of the university. Our relationships with successful entrepreneurs and business owners outside the QU community enable us to connect our students with the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region and country and enhance the economic development provided by small to mid-sized businesses that are fundamental to a successful economy.

263

New LinkedIn
followers

3,316

Organic Instagram impressions

32

Number of student businesses
participating in campus pop-up
shops

17

Number of different
industries engaging with
the center

716

Registrants for the M&T
Bank Center for Innovation &
Entrepreneurship events

36

New student business ideas in
development

LEARN MORE



qu.edu/innovation

TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT

The M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, under the leadership of Patrice Luoma, PhD, center director and professor of entrepreneurship & strategy within the School of Business, is a collaborative resource for students, staff and faculty across all of Quinnipiac's academic schools. The center offers **advisory services** and **workshops** in legal, finance, research, marketing, design, business plan development and **startup mentoring** to help catalyze all types of innovative business, social, sustainable and artistic ventures.

FALL 2022 EVENTS & INITIATIVES



Student Business Pop-Up Shops

September, November, December 2022 | March, April 2023

The center hosted five different pop-up shops throughout the academic year, each one with a specific theme and focus. The goal was to provide student businesses with the opportunity to come together to sell their products and services to the Quinnipiac community.

Build for Tomorrow: An Action Plan for Embracing Change, Adapting Fast and Future-Proofing Your Career with Jason Feifer

October 2022 | co-sponsored

Jason Feifer, the editor-in-chief of Entrepreneur magazine, spoke at this event co-sponsored by the School of Communications Dean's Office, School of Business Dean's Office, M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, and M&T Bank Center for Women & Business.



Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) Pitch Competition

CEO conference: October 2022 | Chicago

College students with a business idea or a business with revenue were given an opportunity to qualify to compete in the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization pitch competition which offered \$20,000 in new venture funding. The competition was a multi-step process which ended with 100 students qualifying for a trip to the CEO conference on October 28-30 in Chicago. Ten Quinnipiac students qualified for the top 100 pitch competition, with two students moving on to compete at the conference and connect with students and mentors from other universities.



Fall 2022 QU Elevator Pitch Competition

November 2022

The inaugural elevator pitch competition was open to students from all majors. This 90-second pitch competition gave all students the opportunity to pitch their new product ideas or social impact ideas to a panel of judges and win cash prizes. The winners for the social enterprise category were Yamna Siddiqui, Gabriella Nartowicz and Petrina Robinson. The winners for the commercial enterprise category were Mila Iuteri, Emily Schwartz and Eliza Bailey, Xavier Smith and Tahiya Bade.

SPRING 2023 EVENTS & INITIATIVES

Welcome Back to the Innovation Hub

February 2023

Students and members of the Quinnipiac community were invited to partake in fun activities planned throughout the day to learn more about how the M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship can help them with their ideas and to get a chance to win prizes.

CT Angel Investor Network Speaker, Joe O'Connor

February 2023

Joe O'Connor, Principal of Visorpoint LLC and member of the Angel Investor Forum of CT, spoke with the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization QU Chapter and Patrice Luoma's Business Competition class. Joe talked about the ways that startups raise money and the role played by Angel Investors in funding startup businesses.

OpenOcean Networking and Information Event

March 2023

The center hosted an in-person networking event to introduce their OpenOcean Networking & Education Platform. Students learned about the benefits of opening an account and about the learning tool within the account which guides users through the process of creating a new venture, from idea to pitch to launch.



Brewing Change: A Conversation & Tasting with Alisa Bowens-Mercado

March 2023

A conversation and beer tasting were held with Alisa Bowens-Mercado, owner of Rhythm Brewing Co. A short clip of the documentary "One Pint at a Time" was shown which highlights Black brewers, brand owners and influencers across the country who are reshaping the craft beer industry. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Cultural and Global Engagement, M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, and M&T Bank Center for Women & Business.

Department of Cultural and Global Engagement (DCGE) Inclusive Conversation on Women and Entrepreneurship

March 2023

Center Director Patrice Luoma hosted an inclusive conversation workshop about women entrepreneurs and innovators, and their potential challenges and opportunities.

Pitch Innovation Workshop with The Travelers

March 2023

The Travelers Experimentation Partners presented tips on how to give a meaningful pitch along with some insight into their Innovation Mindset and best practices. After the workshop, the participants were invited to join a networking session.

GAME Forum Panel on Entrepreneurial Finance

March 2023 | New York City

Patrice Luoma moderated a panel with guests Joe O'Connor, CT Angel Investor Network; Bobak Emamian, Entrepreneur and Co-Founder, Debut Capital; and Tony Cerce, ProsperOn on entrepreneurial finance.

2023 Spring QU Pitch Competition: Semifinals

April 2023

Eleven selected semifinalists presented internally to QU faculty and other judges. This session served to help participants prepare for an effective pitch and to get supportive feedback and tips on how to enhance the overall pitch and value proposition of their business. Finalists were selected to move on to the final event on April 19, 2023.

2023 Spring QU Pitch Competition: Final

April 2023

Bold entrepreneurs pitched their ideas and innovations to a panel of expert judges and earned cash prizes of up to \$3,000 each from the judges to move forward with their ideas.



Are You a Genius or a Genius Maker?

May 2023

In this webinar, Xavier Lederer, founder and CEO of Ambrose Growth Business Coaching, taught about leadership tools for utilizing your team's full potential, covering information in the book "Multipliers" by Liz Wiseman.



Presentation and Workshop with Barry Stein, MD, MBA

May 2023

Dr. Barry Stein, Chief Clinical Innovation Officer, Chief Medical Informatics Officer, Vascular & Interventional Radiologist, Hartford HealthCare, shared how he created an innovation ecosystem at Hartford HealthCare and discussed innovation opportunities for Quinnipiac University faculty, staff and students.

ConnCORP Partnership

May 2023

A partnership between the Quinnipiac Entrepreneurship Academy and Connecticut Community Outreach Revitalization Program (ConnCORP) has greatly accelerated skills and supported dreams of 18 small business owners seeking to grow minority-, women-, and veteran-owned enterprises in the New Haven-Hamden area. Center Director Patrice Luoma had the privilege of judging their pitch competition.

Summer Accelerator Pilot Program

May-June 2023

The CIE hosted an inaugural Summer Accelerator. CIE Director Patrice Luoma worked with Professors Greg Garvey of Game Design & Development and Dave Tomczyk of Entrepreneurship. Three teams of recent graduates and undergraduates participated. The three-week Accelerator is designed as a "runway" to help student teams launch their product, invention, game — intellectual property — into the marketplace.

Additionally, Greg Lewis of Connecticut's Small Business Development Center provided ongoing mentoring, and Michael Invernale of CTNext and Maureen McCarthy, Executive Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, advised on funding.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Certificate

This brand-new certificate is available for undergraduate students as well as alumni and community members. The certificate requires four courses: three or four I&E courses, with the option for the fourth course to come from your degree program.

OpenOcean Platform

Students are invited to join our innovation and entrepreneurship networking platform, OpenOcean. This platform is used to link students, student founders and mentors. The platform also has a learning tool that can guide you through the process of creating a new venture.

Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization Student Chapter

The CIE sponsors the QU Chapter of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization. Dr. Luoma is the club adviser.

The CIE had two of the 20 finalists compete at the CEO Annual Conference in Chicago. In addition, the center brought three students to the conference to represent the QU CEO Chapter. The club also held many other activities throughout the year.

Pitch Competition Participation outside of QU

November 9, 2023, Tsai Center, Yale University, student pitch competition: two QU student participants

December 8, 2023, GSEA (sponsored by CT Entrepreneurs' Organization), The Society Room Hartford: one QU student participant, 2nd place



Quinnipiac
M&T Bank Center
for Innovation &
Entrepreneurship



The M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship is proud to align with Quinnipiac University's Innovation Hub, an initiative that provides students with a uniquely collaborative and interdisciplinary opportunity by bringing together the university's innovation ecosystem. The M&T Bank Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship will continue to deliver robust programming and ample resources. The Innovation Hub serves as a runway to the workplaces and jobs of tomorrow, a place where students work with their peers from different backgrounds and interests toward a common goal. These shared experiences and relationships will prepare our students to collaborate and innovate with colleagues from multiple departments, divisions and locations — all across the world.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Patrice Luoma, PhD
*Director for M&T Bank Center for
Innovation & Entrepreneurship*
*Professor of Entrepreneurship
& Strategy*



Hanna Hejmowski
*Director of Operations for M&T
Bank Center for Innovation &
Entrepreneurship*
Part-Time Faculty

2023 FACULTY INNOVATION FELLOWS

Our faculty innovation fellows promote entrepreneurship and innovation within their respective disciplines and schools to facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary innovations and impact creation.

Sara Silver, *Professor of Journalism and Financial Communication*

Sarah Lawson, *Assistant Professor of Biology*

Lauren Sardi, *Professor of Sociology and Women's & Gender Studies*

Greg Garvey, *Professor of Game Design and Development*

John Reap, *Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering*

Rahul Anand, *Associate Professor of Medical Services*

Learn more

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