



# 2017-2018 Entrepreneurship Events, Competitions, and Conferences in Nebraska



## PERK UP THURSDAY WEEKLY COFFEES

Every Thursday at 10AM • Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center,  
285 South 68th St. Place, Lincoln, NE

These coffees include a brief presentation by area entrepreneurs followed by Q&A with that day's speaker, refreshments, and relaxed networking. If you'd be interested in speaking at a coffee, sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45afaf2ba6ff2-weekly>. Speakers include a variety of entrepreneurs, potential entrepreneurs, and service providers of all ages. Email if you'd like to be added to the coffee mailing list.

Contact: Steve Bors; [sbors@southeast.edu](mailto:sbors@southeast.edu)

More information at: [www.southeast.edu/entrepreneurship](http://www.southeast.edu/entrepreneurship)



## BREAKTHROUGH WEEKEND: A 54 HOUR STARTUP EXPERIENCE

September 29 - October 1, 2017 • UNO College of Business, 6708 Pine St, Omaha

A 54-hour event, during which groups of students, developers, business managers and startup enthusiasts pitch ideas for new startup companies, form teams around those ideas, and work to develop a working prototype, demo or presentation by Sunday evening. This event is sponsored by Cox for Business and coordinated by The Startup Collaborative and the UNO Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Franchising. Please email to check availability and conditions.

Contact: Jenna Taulman; [jtaulman@unomaha.edu](mailto:jtaulman@unomaha.edu)

More information at: [breakthroughweekend2017.eventbrite.com](http://breakthroughweekend2017.eventbrite.com)



## MAVERICK BIG IDEA! PITCH CONTEST

October 9, 2017 – Preliminary Rounds; October 11, 2017 – Finals •  
UNO College of Business, 6708 Pine St, Omaha

Any UNO student with an innovative, original idea is invited to participate. The contest begins on Monday, Oct. 9, when all contestants will perform 90-second pitches in front of panels of Omaha entrepreneurs and business experts. Finalists will pitch in front of a live audience on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 in Mammel Hall. Deadline for entry is Monday, October 2, 2017.

More information at: [www.cba.unomaha.edu/bigidea](http://www.cba.unomaha.edu/bigidea)

It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, or national origin in its education programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.





## 12TH ANNUAL NEW VENTURE ADVENTURE DAY

October 10, 2017 • University of Nebraska at Kearney

The University of Nebraska at Kearney's Enactus organization will be hosting the twelfth annual New Venture Adventure day for Nebraska high school students on Tuesday, October 10th, 2017 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. New Venture Adventure is a day for high school students to learn of both the hard work and excitement of becoming an entrepreneur.

Groups, made up of a random mixture of students from various schools, have the opportunity to create a hypothetical retail, service, or manufacturing business of their choice. UNK college students will be with each group to help guide them. At the end of the day, they will present their business concept to a panel of judges, answer questions, and receive feedback from them.

More information at: [unk.edu/nva](http://unk.edu/nva)



## THE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

October 19 & 23, 2017 • University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business

Co-sponsored by the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship and the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization, the Innovation Challenge requires student teams to work on a specific, non-technical task or problem (a secret until the event), over the course of a weekend. Teams return to present their solutions to a panel of judges to win prizes and trophies. Pizza is provided on Challenge night. This event is free, and open to all UNL students.

Contact: [entrepreneurship@unl.edu](mailto:entrepreneurship@unl.edu)



## BIG IDEA KEARNEY

November 1, 2017 • The World Theater, Kearney, Nebraska

This event is open to anyone 10 years or older with a new business idea. Four categories will be offered: Middle school, High School or Adult – College and Adult Non-College. A 2-minute video of your idea "pitch" must be submitted by Monday, October 2, 2017 by 4:00 pm. All videos submitted by the deadline will be evaluated by local entrepreneurs and business experts. The top ideas will be asked to participate in a public event the evening of November 1, 2017 at the World Theatre in downtown Kearney. It's easy, it's free and it's a great learning experience. All ages are welcome! Judges will run a short Q & A session. Prizes will be awarded: \$1,000 1st prize, \$500 2nd prize and \$250 3rd prize and more.

More information at: [www.unk.edu/bigideakearney](http://www.unk.edu/bigideakearney)



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP BEST PRACTICES SUMMIT

November 2, 2017 • Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

The Summit is designed to bring together educators (K-12 & Postsecondary), economic/community developers, local and state policy makers and entrepreneurship advocates to focus on building an entrepreneurial eco-system in Nebraska. The spotlight will be on what's working both in Nebraska and beyond to help prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs, support and sustain existing entrepreneurial ventures and how to build vibrant local and regional economic eco-systems through entrepreneurship.

Contact: Gregg Christensen, [gregg.christensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:gregg.christensen@nebraska.gov) or  
Nancy Eberle, [neberle@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:neberle@mainstaycomm.net)

More information at: [www.eshipbestpracticessummit.com](http://www.eshipbestpracticessummit.com)



### 3-2-1 QUICK PITCH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS RECEPTION

November 10, 2017 • Skyboxes, West Club Level, Memorial Stadium,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

This annual event, open to students from two-year and four-year college programs, as well as high schools, requires participants to deliver three-minute elevator pitches to panels of expert judges, similar to the television show Shark Tank. Multiple winners share \$7,000 in prize money. The pitch event is followed by a reception honoring some of the individuals and companies who have contributed to entrepreneurial activities and learning at Nebraska and beyond. The event is free and open to the public.

Contact: Center for Entrepreneurship; entrepreneurship@unl.edu; 402.472.3353



### SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA BIZ LAUNCH WEEKEND

January 19-20, 2018 • McCook Community College, McCook, Nebraska

Biz Launch Weekend is the event for you to turn your idea into a business. Spend a day and a half learning bite-sized lessons and receive individual coaching from mentors throughout the event. By the end of the event, you will have a lean business model to share with potential investors and could earn a \$1,000 business grant to help make your idea happen. Anyone in the seven counties of Southwest Nebraska (Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Hitchcock, Hayes, Red Willow, and Furnas) is able to attend.

Biz Launch Weekend will be held at McCook Community College on Friday, January 19th 2018 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. CT and Saturday, January 20th 2018 from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. CT. If you register, you are expected to attend the entire event.

Contact: Lena Koebel; koebell@mpcc.edu; 308.345.8124



### ESI CAPITOL CONTEST 2018

January 17, 2018 • Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska

ESI Capitol Contest is open to all students who have completed the Entrepreneurship Investigation program offered through their school or community. Eligible students must be enrolled in the 5th through 9th grades.

Students are required to complete an online application due in December (date TBA). Applications will be judged on completeness, creative business idea, and narrative explaining their business concept. This is a competition on the student's business idea, presentation and exhibit. Fourteen students or student teams will be accepted into the competition. Students and sponsors will be notified via email of their selection. Each student must indicate their acceptance to compete by the due date (TBA-Mid to late December 2017).

Contact: Nancy Eberle; neberle@mainstaycomm.net; 402.366.8001  
Marilyn Schlake; mschlake1@unl.edu; 402.472.4138



### 3 DAY STARTUP @ UNK

January 26-28, 2018 • University of Nebraska at Kearney

This is a weekend-long learn-by-doing workshop that teaches entrepreneurial skills to UNK students and area entrepreneurs in an extreme hands-on environment. Day 1: A facilitator leads the group through dedicated brainstorming, preliminary pitches/feedback, and team selection modules. Day 2: Teams talk to potential customers accompanied by structured mentorship, intermediate pitches and feedback sessions. Day 3: Continued execution (including pitch workshops) leading into final pitches/demos to an esteemed panel of business mentors and investors. The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students of all years, majors and experience levels as well as working and entrepreneurial professionals. **You do not need to be a UNK student to participate.** Application deadline: TBD

Contact: emailcerd@unk.edu; 308.865.8199

More information at: [unk.edu/3DS](http://unk.edu/3DS)



## THE START SOMETHING 48-HOUR CHALLENGE

January 26-28, 2018 • University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business

This learning-by-doing workshop teaches entrepreneurial skills in an extreme hands-on setting, including advice and mentorship from local entrepreneurs and investors. Students from a wide range of backgrounds form teams and work together to develop the most promising product and service ideas. The event culminates in the presentation of business idea projects to the crowd and to community judges. Students from all colleges and majors at UNL are welcome. The event is free of charge and all meals are provided.

Contact: [entrepreneurship@unl.edu](mailto:entrepreneurship@unl.edu)



## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN NEW VENTURE COMPETITION

April 3-4, 2018 • University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union

Open to all UNL students, including MBA students, this two-day event showcases student-created ventures in a series of competitive presentation rounds, culminating in a final face-off between the top four teams. Two grand prizes of \$25,000, along with additional cash prizes, will be awarded during a networking and awards reception. Open to the public.

Contact: [entrepreneurship@unl.edu](mailto:entrepreneurship@unl.edu)



## 7TH ANNUAL MIDWEST ENTREPRENEUR CONFERENCE

April 6-7, 2018 • The Kaneko, 1111 Jones St, Omaha, NE

MWEC is a two day conference that brings students from 25 Midwest universities together to learn from incredible entrepreneurs in the areas of technology, social-ventures and innovation.

Contact: Jenna Taulman; [jtaulman@unomaha.edu](mailto:jtaulman@unomaha.edu)

More information at: [www.mwecomaha.com](http://www.mwecomaha.com)



## MAVERICK BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

April 19, 2018 • University of Nebraska-Omaha

The Maverick Business Plan Competition encourages development of new ventures, either for profit or social benefit, by any current UNO, UNMC, or PKI undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, or post-doctoral student enrolled in a degree granting program. Students are invited to submit a simplified business plan that identifies an opportunity and presents a viable proposal to address it. Winning plans can be new or novel innovations or can also address better implementation of or finding new markets for an existing technology.

Contact: Jenna Taulman; [jtaulman@unomaha.edu](mailto:jtaulman@unomaha.edu)

More information at: [cba.unomaha.edu/mavbizplan](http://cba.unomaha.edu/mavbizplan)



## MAVERICK YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR SUMMER CAMP

June 4-8th, 2018 • UNO College of Business, 6708 Pine St, Omaha, NE

Five day summer camp for 7th, 8th and 9th graders. Discover whether you have the mindset of an entrepreneur. Learn how to turn an idea or hobby into a money-making business. Meet highly successful Omaha entrepreneurs and visit them at their business and explore the resources available to young entrepreneurs in college.

Contact: Jenna Taulman; [jtaulman@unomaha.edu](mailto:jtaulman@unomaha.edu)

More information at: [cba.unomaha.edu/ecamp](http://cba.unomaha.edu/ecamp)

**For information about entrepreneurship education resources, curricula, activities and conferences contact:**

GREGG CHRISTENSEN - ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAREER EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Nebraska Department of Education, [gregg.christensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:gregg.christensen@nebraska.gov), 402.471.4337

Nebraska Entrepreneurship Education Website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/entreped/>

Entrepreneurship Listserv: <http://lists.k12.ne.us/www/subscribe/entre-ed> • Twitter: @NDE\_EntreEd