

# VENTUREWELL

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Brings a tradition of asking audacious questions about what students should be and be able to do upon graduation to the discussion of how spaces matter. Initially grounded in engineering disciplines, their programs reflect visions set forth in *The Engineer of 2020* about the characteristics and qualities of graduates in the future including the following:

*Creativity (invention, innovation, thinking outside-the-box, art) is an indispensable quality for engineering, and given the growing scope of the challenges ahead and the complexity and diversity of the technologies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, creativity will grow in importance.*

That vision of what learners are to become has been translated by the VentureWell community into spaces for making, loosely described as spaces where students can hash out ideas and bring inventions to life.

Makerspaces are identified by a creative diversity of titles:

- *The Alley*  
Michigan Technological College
- *Starting Point*  
University of Puerto Rico
- *Spark Innovation Studio*  
Kent State University
- *The Innovation Studio*  
Ohio State University



## WHO THEY ARE

VentureWell, formerly known as the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA), is a private 501(c)(3) organization that funds and trains faculty and student innovators to create successful, socially beneficial businesses. The organization's mission is to create experiential learning opportunities for students and to catalyze student-led ventures that create positive social and environmental impact.

VentureWell is a community that envisions a world in which science and technology innovators have the support, training, and access to networks and resources essential to solving the world's most difficult problems.

For over 20 years, VentureWell has worked to support, train, and foster networks to ensure that the next generation of science and technology innovators realize—and maximize—their potential in bringing their innovative ideas to impact.

Through generous grants and groundbreaking conferences, faculty change agents are empowered to develop programs that cultivate and support a national pipeline of inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs. VentureWell initiatives promote institutional change at the campus level and strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem nationwide.

## WHAT THEY DO

Foster collaboration among the best minds from research labs, classrooms and beyond to advance innovation and entrepreneurship education and to provide unique opportunities for STEM students and researchers to fully realize their potential to improve the world.

Support and work directly with a variety of early stage innovators to help them bring their ideas to market through workshops, teaching, coaching, and mentoring.

Enable powerful approaches to stimulating science and technology invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship on university and college campuses, and move the strongest ideas rapidly forward to commercialization.

### RESEARCH & RESOURCES

- <https://venturewell.org/>
- <http://pkallsc.org/partners/venturewell>
- Report on Places of Invention: The First Lemelson Institute - <http://invention.smithsonian.org/downloads/lemelson-inst-report.pdf>
- <https://venturewell.org/makerspace-masters/>
- <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/10999/the-engineer-of-2020-visions-of-engineering-in-the-new>

