What We Do

The Zahn Innovation Center is SDSU’s incubator for innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs. Students, faculty and staff from all parts of the campus transform their early-stage ideas into commercial and social enterprises, including ventures striving to make a positive impact in the world.

The Power of Teamwork

Successful entrepreneurs understand that teamwork maximizes involvement, leveraging everybody’s strengths and areas of expertise while distributing risk and responsibility among all participants. At the Zahn Center, we create enterprise-building teams comprised of individuals whose knowledge and skills complement one another.

In a truly collaborative effort involving SDSU’s Lavin Entrepreneurship Center, the Colleges of Engineering and Business Administration, and all other SDSU colleges, these teams represent the best of the University’s vast talent pool of faculty, students and staff. With additional guidance from successful entrepreneurs, our teams are uniquely positioned to turn their ideas into viable enterprises.

The return on investment? Our team members learn hands-on entrepreneurial skills that will serve them well throughout their careers. Our mentors, service providers and other volunteers gain access to new talent and ideas that can benefit their own professional objectives. The University benefits from an exchange of information and expertise that strengthens its own research and teaching capacities.

Finally, the greater San Diego region benefits from the creation of companies and social enterprises that provide an infusion of new jobs and innovations into our communities and the local economy.
Our Commitment to Team Members

The Zahn Center offers every individual enrolled on a team:

- 24/7 access to collaborative work and lab spaces
- Access to dedicated mentors with the talent and experience to enrich the team members’ education and move their projects forward
- Hands-on experiences that will sharpen their business acumen
- Access to some of the region’s most accomplished entrepreneurs and innovators via their participation in Zahn Center speaker events
- Access to 3-D printers and other cutting-edge prototyping services and equipment
- Regular access to domain experts and personal introductions to potential investors and venture partners
- Access to extensive knowledge and information regarding potential funding opportunities and how to seize them

SDSU Students, Faculty and Staff:

Pitch your ideas for a startup enterprise.
Apply to join a Zahn Center Team.
Apply to compete in the annual Zahn Challenge.
Attend our speaker event series and meet the speakers.

Contact The Zahn Center for further details:
(619)-594-0828  |  www.ZahnCenter.sdsu.edu

“The Zahn Center helped plug me into a network of people and information that directly resulted in our first major round of funding.”

John Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Grow Energy
Support the Zahn Innovation Center

Become a Mentor

As a Zahn Center team mentor, you will have the opportunity to share your hard-won professional wisdom with promising young entrepreneurs eager to learn from your experiences.

Become a Founding Member of the Zahn Center Aztec Angels

The Zahn Center depends on private support from the community. In response, members of the Aztec Angels give to the Center on an annual basis. Because their funding is unrestricted, it can be applied where it’s needed most, such as seed money to purchase specialized equipment for a team project, or stipends to help students persevere in growing their enterprises. In return, the Aztec Angels receive a range of scaled benefits including public recognition, access to special University events and entrée to valuable campus resources, facilities, researchers, students and faculty.

Sponsor an Upcoming Zahn Center Event, Program or Naming Opportunity

The Zahn Center offers a variety of sponsorships and naming opportunities throughout the year to individuals, foundations and companies that understand the value of forging strong bonds between leaders in higher education, industry and social ventures. Each opportunity offers its own set of benefits to the sponsoring company or donor.

Contact Us

For further details about supporting The Zahn Center, contact:

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Visit Us

IT-100 Near East Commons
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www.ZahnCenter.sdsu.edu

Ready to Give Today?

Please make your fully tax-deductible gift online at www.ZahnCenter.sdsu.edu, or by making your check payable to Zahn Innovation Center and mailing it to:

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