

Merging the Public & Private Sectors: Global Higher Education Collaborations with Industry Partners

Leah L. Panganiban, University of Washington

Context and Benefits of Higher Education and Industry Collaborations

Context

Policymakers and universities have the ambition to develop a “third mission” in addition to the two traditional core missions of research and teaching: to commercialize academic knowledge. This ambition has led to the intensified relevance of higher education and industry collaborations such as continuing education programs, patenting, technology transfer offices, incubators, and capstone projects.

Benefits

Industry

- Human resources such as researchers or students
- Gain access to technology and knowledge
- Use expensive research infrastructure



Universities

- Real-world working and research experience for students
- Access to industry equipment, licensing, or patent
- Additional Funding

Barriers to and Strategies for Successful Collaborations



Barriers

- Different understanding of realistic timelines and expectations
- University bureaucracy and rigid structure
- Lack of financial and administrative support
- Short-term orientation of industry research

Successful Strategies

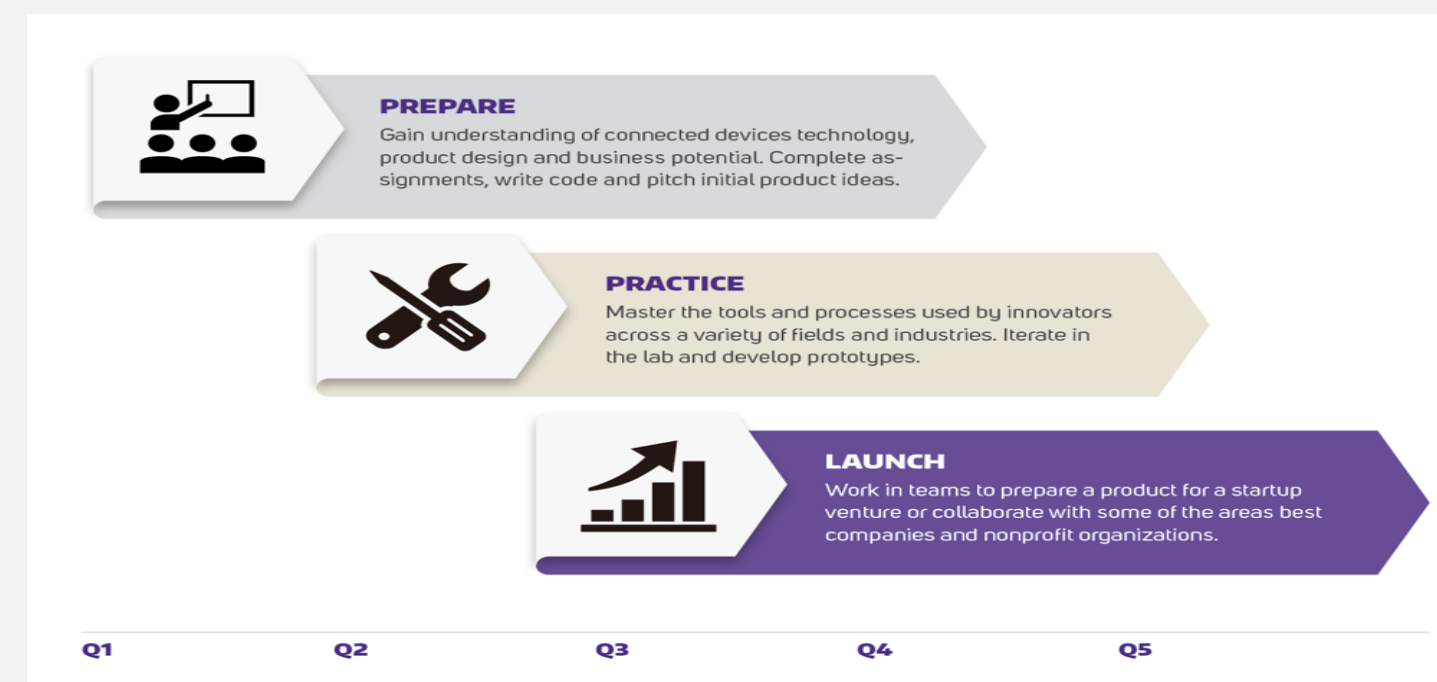
- Sufficient finances, time, staff and equipment
- Clearly developed mechanisms and processes including methods of communication, roles in teams, and mutual terms
- Highly qualified human resources
- Infrastructure including libraries, labs and technical equipment

Global Innovation Exchange founded by the University of Washington, Tsinghua University and Microsoft

The Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) is a new model of experiential education and practice to develop leaders in innovation. GIX offers two interdisciplinary graduate programs.

UW Master of Science in Technology Innovation (MSTI) degree immerses students in a project-based curriculum developed around three key disciplines: design thinking, technology development, and entrepreneurship.

Students interact with industry sponsors in several ways: individual mentorship program, guest speakers in courses and career events, visits to industry offices, and, most importantly, working closely with industry mentors on launch projects.



GIX graduate programs prepare the next generation of innovators. Students graduate with the technical, design thinking, and entrepreneurial skills to launch their own startup, join a new venture team at a leading company or nonprofit, or advance their academic pursuits.



GLOBAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE



Opportunities for Higher Education Institutions to Engage with Industry

There are several ways colleges and universities can collaborate with industry partners.

- Curated Internships
- Mentorship Programs
- Launch or Capstone Projects
- Visiting/Guest Faculty
- Industry Site Visits
- Technology Transfer

Reference

Rybnicek, R. & Königsgruber, R. J Bus Econ (2019) 89: 221. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11573-018-0916-6>.

Global Innovation Exchange Industry Partners

