



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP NEWSLETTER 2025-2026

The 2025–2026 academic year marked a major step forward for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Marquette. Through expanded programming, deeper student engagement, and stronger connections with industry partners, the program continues to build a hands-on ecosystem where students can turn ideas into action.

This year, we focused on creating more accessible entry points into entrepreneurship while also elevating opportunities for students ready to build, launch, and lead. From new student organizations to experiential funding initiatives, our goal remains the same: empower students to think boldly, execute creatively, and develop real-world impact.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue scaling these efforts and strengthening Marquette’s position as a leader in student-driven innovation.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Expanded student access to entrepreneurship programming and events
- Increased collaboration with alumni, founders, and industry mentors
- Growth in hands-on learning opportunities across campus



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MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

BE THE DIFFERENCE.

ENTP FACULTY: JOHN WRIGHT, RUSTY ZOSEL, & PATRICK MONAHAN

During this academic year, the College of Business Administration welcomed a new Coleman Chair and Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship and two new Instructors of Practice.

JOHN WRIGHT

John earned his undergraduate degree in Business from Miami University and his Master of Science in Management from Purdue University Krannert Graduate School of Management. He built his career across sales, marketing, and business development, with experience launching new ventures and growing business units in startup and corporate settings.

Now transitioning to full-time teaching, John is focused on helping students apply entrepreneurship in real-world contexts while strengthening connections to Milwaukee's startup ecosystem.

[John's LinkedIn](#)



RUSTY ZOSEL

Rusty earned his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology from Marquette University and later completed both an MBA and a Master's in Information Systems Management from Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University. He is the founder of Procurement Partners and built his career across entrepreneurship, sales, and business development, scaling companies and driving operational growth. He now serves as an Instructor of Practice at Marquette, where he teaches Funding Strategies and brings real-world startup experience into the classroom.

[Rusty's LinkedIn](#)



PATRICK MONAHAN

Patrick serves as Director of Innovation at the 707 Hub and Instructor of Practice at Marquette. Over the past 3 years at the 707Hub, Patrick has helped over 50 students become founders. He also teaches Consulting to Urban Entrepreneurs, Methods of Ignatian Innovation, and Leading Innovation & Creativity. His career spans roles as a neuroscientist, consultant, educator, and entrepreneur, bringing a uniquely interdisciplinary perspective to innovation. He holds degrees from Marquette University, Loyola University Chicago, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and University of Notre Dame, and is currently pursuing a PhD at Marquette.

[Patrick's LinkedIn](#)



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAUNCH OF CEO

The launch of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO) at Marquette marks a major step forward in expanding access to entrepreneurship on campus. Recognizing a gap between students interested in building and knowing how to access the many resources available to them, we set out to create a platform that lowers the barrier to entry and gives students a clear starting point.

CEO is designed to be a community for students across all majors who are interested in starting something of their own or innovating within existing organizations. Whether someone has a fully developed idea or is just beginning to explore entrepreneurship, the goal is to provide the structure, network, and support needed to take action.

Since its formation, the organization has focused on building a strong founding team, and connecting students with experienced operators, founders, and alumni. By creating consistent opportunities to learn, build, and collaborate, CEO aims to become a central hub for student entrepreneurship at Marquette.

Looking ahead, the focus is on scaling membership, increasing hands-on opportunities, and continuing to integrate CEO into the broader Innovation & Entrepreneurship ecosystem on campus.



SARAH SANCHEZ,
FOUNDING PRESIDENT



DREW GOETZ,
VICE PRESIDENT,
INCOMING PRESIDENT



JOHN WRIGHT,
FACULTY ADVISOR



The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization
AT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

**Stop Dreaming,
Start Doing!**

THE DORM FUND

Launched in 2015, The Dorm Fund is a Marquette student-run venture capital firm that invests exclusively in undergraduate student-run companies and provides funding up to \$2,500 to help accelerate new ventures. The investment team is comprised of student associates committed to supporting student entrepreneurs and startups at Marquette University.

Over the past two years, the 707Hub Dorm Fund has supported more than 15 student-led ventures, deploying approximately \$25,000 in early-stage funding. These investments have helped founders take initial steps in building and testing their ideas, with supported companies this academic year including Vensora, Sozo, Kynetics, Skip the Warm Up, and Safe U.

2025-2026 Dorm Fund Associates:



Logan Meyer '26



Allan Fox '27



Samuel Brooks '26



Sarah Sanchez '26



Vensora:
Ben Boxall, William Rooke,
& Michael Bergmann



SkipTheWarmUp:
Sydney Gang



Kynetics:
Ian Ortega & Nabil Othman



SafeU:
Jacob McGinnis & Julianne
Browne



SOZO:
Andrew Berrera



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH 2025

O'BRIEN HALL

Aspiring entrepreneurs participated in the second annual Marquette Invitational startup pitch competition. Ten teams from five universities presented original business concepts to a panel of subject matter experts, with over \$20,000 in seed money available for the winners.

Nabil Othman and Ian Ortega from Marquette University took first place and earned \$10,000. Their company, Kynetics, creates affordable rehabilitation technologies to enhance recovery and human performance.

The second-place team of Joel Roberts and Colin Hughes, representing UW-Milwaukee, earned \$7,500 to support their business, Shepherd Traffic, which automates traffic data intelligence and provides solutions to traffic planners.

Sydney Gang of Marquette University Law School took third place, receiving \$2,500. Her business, Skip The Warmup LLC, helps people move freely with the first washable, continuous-use heated knee sleeve.



STUDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT



Summer Catalyst Fellowship

Summer 2026/707Hub

Catalyst Fellows receive a \$5,000 summer stipend that protects their time so they may focus on growing their business. Fellows participate in mentor and investor swarms, Midwest Founders Community networking events, pitch competitions at DePaul University and Santa Clara University and meet with alumni entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley!

Hustling Sideways Series

2025-2026 Academic Year/707Hub

The Hustling Sideways Podcast brings real, unfiltered conversations with founders, creators, and professionals to Marquette's 707 Hub. Hosted by alumni Jim Love and Allen Halas, the series highlights the journeys behind success—covering career pivots, failures, and the hustle it takes to build something meaningful. Through live recordings and student engagement, Hustling Sideways connects the Marquette community to real-world stories and insights from across industries.

Brewed Ideas Challenge April 24th, 2026/707Hub

The Brewed Ideas Challenge is Marquette's Shark Tank-style pitch competition designed to help students turn ideas into real ventures. Finalists participate in a hands-on bootcamp, receive one-on-one mentorship, and compete for a share of \$27,000 in seed funding. Made possible through a partnership with Brady Corporation, the challenge provides students with the tools, guidance, and experience needed to bring their ideas to life.

ENTP Course Offerings

ENTP 3001

Understanding Entrepreneurship

ENTP 3080

Funding Strategies for
Entrepreneurs

ENTP 4010

New Venture Creation &
Acceleration

ENTP 4020

Consulting to Urban Entrepreneurs



2025-2026 SPEAKERS & EVENTS



Funding at Marquette & Beyond Panel

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

In partnership with the 707Hub Dorm Fund, this event highlighted navigating funding opportunities available to students at Marquette and beyond. Attendees heard experiences from a current Marquette student founder and two alumni founders.

SCORE Mentorship Presentation

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Representatives from SCORE Southeast Wisconsin, Stew Brase and Lew Bartfield allowed students to learn from experienced business mentors on strategy, funding, and execution. SCORE has supported over 11 million entrepreneurs since 1964.

Lead & Invest Panel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

In partnership with Milwaukee Venture Partners, this event connected students with experienced investors and operators who shared insights on transitioning into careers in venture and supporting startup growth.

Consulting to Entrepreneurs

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Marquette alumna Justine Christian shared her journey as a serial entrepreneur. She emphasized how her Marquette education shaped her mindset and highlighted key lessons around personal values, changing life priorities, and defining success through meaningful impact.

Founder Finder

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

In partnership with the Midwest Founders Community, this event connected students with area founders across industries from med tech and fintech to AI and consumer products. The evening also featured keynote speaker Sarah Graupman from Power Gem.

Hustling Sideways

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Marquette alums Jim Love and Allen Halas interviewed Tim Pauly of Broken Bat Brewery. The conversation highlighted themes like perseverance, pivots, and overcoming imposter syndrome.



LOOKING AHEAD: 3RD ANNUAL MARQUETTE INVITATIONAL

Powered by Marcus
Corporation, honoring
late board member
David Baum

November 18th, 2026



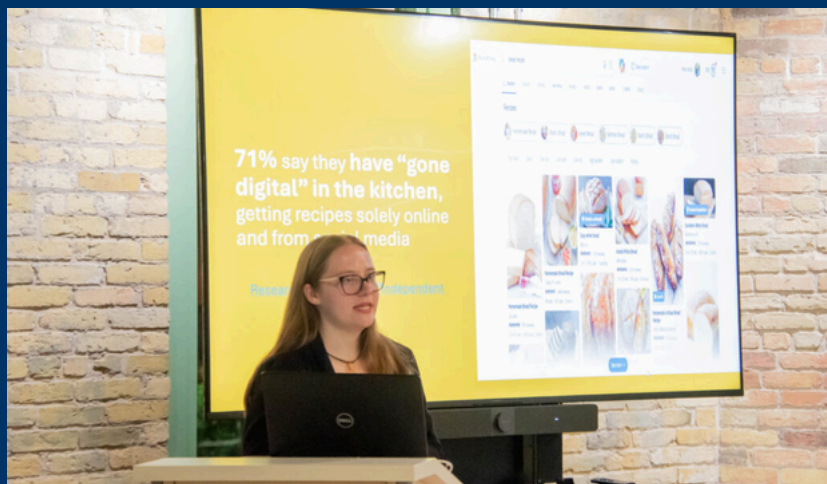
Marcus
CORPORATION

Join Us:

We are excited for our 3rd Annual Marquette Invitational Pitch Competition on November 18, 2026. This year's event will be held at the Hilton Milwaukee and will include a keynote speaker and distinguished panel discussion. We are grateful to Marcus Corporation who is sponsoring the event in honor of their late Board Member David Baum, who exhibited the company's passion for innovation and entrepreneurship throughout his storied career. Marcus Corporation is headquartered in Milwaukee and is the parent company of Marcus Theatres, the nation's fourth largest theatre circuit, and Marcus Hotels & Resorts, a nationally recognized hotel owner and management company.

- 2pm - 4:30 pm: Keynote speaker focused on entrepreneurship in today's business world. Attendees will include Pitch Competition participants, university faculty, the local start-up and business community, along with other guests.
- 5pm - 8:00 pm: Reception followed by Pitch Competition, where ten student founders from universities across eastern Wisconsin will pitch their business ideas for a share of seed money and acceptance into incubator programs.

Look for more information to follow as we get closer to the event.



ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

We deeply value the feedback of the recipients of this newsletter and strive to continuously improve Marquette Entrepreneurship for our students. Please take a moment to complete this short survey to help us expand upon our program and gauge your interest in involvement and impact.

Coaching & Mentoring: *Through the 707Hub, Marquette University's startup incubator space, there will be coaching and mentoring opportunities for business model development and pitch presentations; these will be available in-person and virtually. Contact john.wright@marquette.edu and patrick.monahan@marquette.edu to express interest.*

Marquette Entrepreneurship Engagement Survey



Scan above or [click here!](#)



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**BE THE
DIFFERENCE.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Marcus
CORPORATION



The
Coleman
FOUNDATION



**FOUNDERS
COMMUNITY**
Midwest



707HUB KOHLER CENTER FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY



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DIFFERENCE.



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

College of Business Administration

The knowledge to succeed, the principles to lead and the confidence to connect what's good for business what's good for people.



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