Alabama’s Innovation, Mentoring, and Entrepreneurship Center (AIME)

Dan Daly, Ph.D.
Director
To enhance the culture of high technology research and development at The University of Alabama by innovation, mentoring and entrepreneurship.
To identify and facilitate value added innovation and foster entrepreneurship leading to commercialization of intellectual property.
Why is AIME So Important to The University of Alabama?

- Competition in the Global Market
- Innovate or perish
- Student Triage Program in Entrepreneurship
- Value Enhanced University Technology
- Economic Growth and Development
How AIME Works for The University of Alabama

- Brings together a highly productive and creative multifunctional, multidisciplinary research development team
- Forms a team of highly motivated students for market research and business model/plan development
- Entrepreneurial training
- Idea selection Committee
- Idea formation team
- BTI support
Multifunctional/Multidiscipline Research Development Team

Teams of research staff scientists and students:

- work on several ideas simultaneously
- conduct the developmental testing necessary for advancement of the idea/IP to commercialization
- research the potential markets and identify the necessary testing to position the technology
Research and Business Model Construction

- Formation and operation of teams of highly motivated students for market research and business model construction
- Exploration of markets that UA’s ideas/IP could potentially penetrate
- Formation of business models and plans for the inventor/business
- Team leader presents to potential partners/customers
Entrepreneurial Training

- Train graduate engineering, science, and business students on how to start his/her own company

- Training includes:
  - how to protect IP
  - designing business models
  - identifying and obtaining funding
Entrepreneurial Training Continued

• how to write SBIR/STTR proposal and obtain grant funding

• assisting the incubated companies in presenting business models/plans to Venture Capitalists and Angel Investors.
Think tank for discussion of ideas that will lead to technology enhancement and marketability

Formation of an “idea” database
- Access to idea database in a secure UA site for use by UA researchers
Idea Selection Committee

- Responsible for:
  - prioritizing the ideas/patents to focus the business and research teams.
  - maintaining the idea database.

- Representatives from Tech Transfer, faculty, students, Venture Capitalists, Legal Counsel as well as members from each of the teams.
Bama Technology Incubator (BTI) Support

- Assist incubating companies
- AIME will offer incubating companies:
  - help with formation of business model
  - supply CEO/presidents from our entrepreneurial courses
  - support in writing SBIR/STTRs and grants
  - legal services from our law students
  - first look at our idea database