

The William J. von Liebig Center



Director

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In 2001, the William J. von Liebig Foundation awarded a \$10 million gift to UC San Diego's Jacobs School of Engineering to launch the **William J. von Liebig Center of Entrepreneurism and Technology Advancement**, the first commercialization facility of its kind in the country. The mission of the von Liebig Center (VLC) is to inspire entrepreneurship and catalyze commercialization of UCSD inventions through grants, education, and business mentoring. Its main goals are to foster innovation within UCSD; to accelerate the commercialization of university discoveries; to facilitate the exchange of ideas and collaboration between the university and the private sector; and to prepare students for the workplace.

VLC has provided advisory services to 140 faculty, reviewed 270 technologies, awarded more than \$3 million in proof-of-concept funding to 66 projects, and assisted in forming 26 companies, which have created more than 180 jobs and \$87 million in private capital. More than 70 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers have received grants to explore commercialization of their research and focus on development, testing, or prototype construction that demonstrate the commercial viability of the technology.

VLC advises on a broad range of projects, including medical devices/diagnostics, software, and clean technologies. These projects result in companies and products with far-reaching impacts for sustainability, health care, and

quality of life. Examples include an improved screening test for the human papillomavirus associated with cervical cancer, technologies to improve the treatment of shock and acute inflammatory diseases, alternative power sources based on heat-to-electricity conversion, and next-generation energy-efficient lighting devices.

The von Liebig Center is one of the top two organizations in the nation in accelerating the commercialization of university discoveries, according to a Kauffman Foundation report.

VLC popular entrepreneurship courses, which prepare scientists and engineers for an entrepreneurial workplace, have attracted more than five hundred graduate and undergraduate students, some of whom have also completed internships through VLC. The internships provide hands-on experience in pre-commercialization activities. VLC also organizes seminars on company creation, intellectual property, venture capital, and a variety of other topics to help students become more adept at spotting market-ready technologies. Many von Liebig alumni have gone on to enjoy successful careers as entrepreneurs or business development professionals where they foster a culture of innovation and cooperation across disciplines.

The von Liebig Center is the translational arm for the Institute for Engineering in Medicine by providing all translational services.