



**STARTUP**  
Programs

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### **The Norman Economic Development Coalition and OU Startup Programs Announce Partnership to Expand Benefits for Startup Ventures**

NORMAN, OK – The Norman Economic Development Coalition (NEDC) and University of Oklahoma’s Startup Programs have formalized a partnership to expand benefits and services for startup ventures.

OU Startup Programs recently launched Startup Incubator, a six-month program designed to grow OU-affiliated entrepreneurial ventures. Startup Programs’ partnership with NEDC allows the Incubator to provide new benefits and opportunities for tenants. NEDC and Startup Programs will share programming and mentorship services, as well as collaborate to increase office and workspace offerings.

“The goal of this collaboration is to establish an entrepreneurial ecosystem and pipeline that will grow businesses and jobs in Norman,” said Dan Schemm, NEDC Interim Executive Director.

Startup Incubator tenants are offered workspace with access to physical resources (a multimedia studio and fabrication lab), as well as the opportunity to work alongside Start-Hub Fellows – a group of more than 40 students at every academic level across all colleges with skills sets in technology, design and business.

“One of the greatest values of that collaboration is that these students have already been vetted and present a built-in potential workforce for OU community members who participate,” said Drew Hendricks, OU Startup Programs Lead.

“The community we are hoping to build from those collaborations will be an added benefit,” said Cassandra Rigsby, OU Startup Programs Director.

University alumni, faculty, staff and students are all eligible to apply for Startup Incubator. Others affiliated with OU through licensing partnerships might also be eligible.

“We often joke that anyone who qualifies for a university identification card is likely eligible for the Incubator,” said Hendricks.

Applications for Startup Incubator will close on Friday, Dec. 11. More information about Startup Incubator and the application are available at <https://rb.gy/hh4pvg>.

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The Norman Economic Development Coalition was founded in 1996 as a collaboration among the University of Oklahoma, the City of Norman, Moore Norman Technology Center and the Sooner Centurions, a committee of the Norman Chamber of Commerce. To learn more, visit [selectnorman.com](http://selectnorman.com).

The Tom Love Innovation Hub's newest initiative, OU Startup Programs, is a series of programs designed to foster and grow entrepreneurial ventures at the University of Oklahoma. Purposed with creating good companies and exceptional founders, Startup Programs builds a pipeline for startup ventures by connecting University Community members to supportive programming that will carry their ventures through the early but critical stages of development. Its programs include Start-Hub, Startup Innovation Fund, Startup Accelerator and Startup Incubator. Startup Programs is funded by the Economic Development Administration and supported by the Price College of Business and the OU Vice President of Research and Partnerships. Visit <https://www.ou.edu/innovationhub/> to learn more.