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Twelve universities recognized for outstanding entrepreneurship programs at 2018 Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers Conference

HOUSTON – (Oct. 23, 2018) – Universities committed to innovative entrepreneurship education and programs were recognized for their outstanding programs at the 2018 Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship (GCEC) conference in Chicago, Oct. 18-20. Now in its twenty-second year, the GCEC Conference was attended by more than 540 individuals from 250 top universities from around the globe, the most in the history of the organization.

Universities specializing in venture creation and specialty programs, such as women entrepreneurship, were among the acknowledged. The award winners were selected through a rigorous nomination and evaluation process undergoing review by a panel of 35 academic peers. More than 100 university programs were nominated this year from the 250 GCEC member schools. Awards were presented in seven categories including the top award, the Nasdaq Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence award. Since 2000, Nasdaq has honored university centers that have made and will continue to make enormous contributions in advancing entrepreneurship as the force in economic growth throughout the world. The Nasdaq award was presented by Pam Buchanan, Managing Director of Nasdaq.

“Entrepreneurship has become a central and vibrant educational component at most top universities around the world. Universities play a critical role in global innovation and economic development,” said Brad Burke, executive director of the GCEC and managing director of the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, Rice University. “The GCEC has been a driver of vigorous and innovative academic and experiential entrepreneurial programs. More and more institutes of higher education are recognizing that teaching entrepreneurial skills are key to the success of our students and the world’s future economy.”

Complete list of award winners below:

Outstanding Contributions to Venture Creation

Winners: (two winners)

University in Stockholm, Sweden
Michigan State University

Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship
MSU Entrepreneurship

Finalists:

Babson College
The University of Notre Dame
Northern Kentucky University

Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship
The IDEA Center
Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
**Excellence in Specialty Entrepreneurship Education**

Winner:
- Babson College
- Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership

Finalists:
- Syracuse University
- Institute for Veterans and Military Families
- Miami University
- Institute for Entrepreneurship
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Tata Center for Design and Technology
- University of Colorado - Boulder
- Deming Center for Entrepreneurship

**Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation**

Winner:
- Baylor University
- John F. Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise

Finalists:
- University of Virginia
- School of Engineering and Applied Science
- North Carolina State University
- NC State Entrepreneurship
- Wake Forest University
- Center for Entrepreneurship
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- International Institute for Creative Entrepreneurial Development

**Outstanding Student Engagement & Leadership**

Winners: (two winners)
- The University of Notre Dame
- The IDEA Center
- Georgetown University
- Georgetown Entrepreneurship Initiative

Finalists:
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- Center for Entrepreneurship and Rural Development
- Cornell University
- Entrepreneurship at Cornell

**Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center**

Winners: (three winners)
- Sydney School of Entrepreneurship
- Sydney School of Entrepreneurship
- Virginia Tech
- Apex Center for Entrepreneurs
- Vanderbilt University
- the Wond'ry

Finalists:
- West Virginia University
- LaunchLab
- Smith College
- Jill Ker Conway Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center
- Federal University of Itajuba
- Entrepreneurship Center of the Federal University of Itajuba
Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship Across Disciplines

Winners: (two winners)

- University of Massachusetts Lowell: DifferenceMaker Program
- University of Utah: Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute

Finalists:

- London South Bank University: Clarence Centre for Enterprise and Innovation
- California State University, Chico: Center for Entrepreneurship
- Purdue University: Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship

NASDAQ Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence

- San Diego State University: Lavin Entrepreneurship Center

The GCEC is the premier academic organization addressing the emerging topics of importance to the nation’s university-based centers for entrepreneurship. It has become the vehicle by which the top, established entrepreneurship centers, as well as emerging centers, can work together to share best practices, develop programs and initiatives, and collaborate and assist each other in advancing, strengthening, and celebrating the role of universities in teaching the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

This year’s GCEC Conference was hosted by DePaul University and the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), and supported by other Chicago universities, including Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel provided the opening address to the conference, along with the Presidents of DePaul, Dr. Gabriel Esteban and IIT, Dr. Alan W. Cramb.