

Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre

Empower Saskatchewan entrepreneurs



Building entrepreneurial capacity across Saskatchewan

Across Saskatchewan people are ready to build—a product, a service, a business that creates jobs and strengthens communities. What many lack is not ambition, but access: to space, mentorship, practical guidance and the kind of early support that helps good ideas become real ventures.

The Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (BIEC) exists to bridge that gap between academic theory and real-world business practice. Designed as scalable provincial infrastructure for entrepreneurship and applied business learning, the centre operates as an initial hub model supported by hybrid programming (in-person and virtual) starting in Moose Jaw and expanding to the new Joseph A. Remail Saskatoon Campus.

This hybrid model reflects how entrepreneurs actually work: in person when it matters, online when distance or schedules require flexibility. It serves students balancing coursework and part-time jobs, founders running early ventures in smaller markets and innovators in cities looking for structured support, without uprooting their lives.



Why Saskatchewan Polytechnic

What makes Sask Polytech's Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre different is its foundation in applied education and ability to leverage diverse faculty expertise.

Saskatchewan has incubators and accelerators, but most focus on later-stage ventures or operate only in larger centres. With campuses across the province, deep relationships with industry, and a mandate to connect learning to real work, the centre can deliver programming that blends academic structure with hands-on practice and can reach entrepreneurs wherever they are.

Unlike later-stage accelerators, the centre is intentionally focused on early-stage and community-anchored entrepreneurship, including rural innovators, student founders and individuals building sustainable ventures within their home communities.

"Entrepreneurship is about more than building successful companies. It's about developing lifelong skills, activating creative potential, creating opportunities for wealth generation and empowering individuals to stay rooted in their community and in Saskatchewan doing something they love. When we collectively invest in Saskatchewan entrepreneurs, we all benefit."

Spencer Nikkel, director of the Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre

What the centre does

The Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre focuses on three integrated areas of activity.

Entrepreneurship programming

Practical support and mentorship for students and community members exploring early-stage ventures. Workshops on market testing, pricing, sales and operations. Short, flexible cohorts designed around real schedules. Where possible, access is low-barrier and affordable so cost is not the reason an idea never gets a chance.

Business innovation and applied research

The centre also partners with organizations to solve real business problems through applied research, work-integrated learning and fee-for-service projects. These collaborations strengthen Saskatchewan businesses, while giving students meaningful experience with real constraints and real outcomes.

Events and connections

Networking events, demo days, as well as industry showcases that connect emerging ventures with mentors, partners and potential investors. Building relationships is often the difference between an idea that stalls and one that finds traction.

Why philanthropic support matters

Early-stage entrepreneurship support is foundational and doesn't pay for itself. Some industry-facing work can generate revenue over time, but workshops, mentorship, open access and the early runway that helps people test ideas don't operate on a cost-recovery model, especially if access is intended to be broad. They drive long-term impact, but not the kind that shows up on a balance sheet.

Philanthropic investment allows the Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre to prioritize reach, quality and consistency without limiting participation to those who can pay.

What support makes possible



A credible hub entrepreneurs can use

Flexible co-working space, a limited number of subsidized offices for ventures entering a growth phase, prototyping space to test early products and technology-enabled meeting rooms that make hybrid mentorship practical.



Programming that reaches the whole province

The approach combines practical workshop series delivered by faculty and seasoned founders with structured mentorship tailored to early-stage entrepreneurs. Mentors are compensated for the time and expertise they invest in participants' success. Programming is offered through flexible virtual and in-person formats, ensuring it is accessible to people in every region of the province.



Lasting, visible impact

As the centre formally launches, a wide range of opportunities are available, including naming the centre or program spaces, sponsoring events, challenges or mentorship initiatives as well as directing support to priority groups of entrepreneurs that include student founders to emerging-sector ventures and innovators working in communities throughout the province.

Building Saskatchewan's capacity for innovation

The Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre is designed as durable infrastructure for entrepreneurship – aligned with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's mission to inspire success in every learning journey.

An early investment helps establish the conditions such as access to space, mentorship, applied learning and real-world partnership opportunities that make entrepreneurs more likely to succeed.

This is how more people move from idea to action, how more businesses stay and grow here and how Saskatchewan builds its own capacity for innovation – steadily, credibly and at scale.

**Empowering innovation.
Driving entrepreneurship.
Building Saskatchewan's future.**

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