



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

**ECONOMIC INNOVATION  
& PARTNERSHIPS**

# EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER

## CULTIVATING A HIGH-SKILLED REGIONAL WORKFORCE

### Program Director

Amalea Rassias

### Center Location

Fintech Innovation Building,  
STAR Campus,  
University of Delaware

### Center Activities

Innovation &  
Entrepreneurship  
Workforce Development  
Business Development

### Clients Served

Students  
Faculty, Researchers  
Entrepreneurs  
Technology-based Start Ups

### Contact Information

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innovation/oeip/spin-in/](https://udel.edu/research-innovation/oeip/spin-in/)

Spin In is an experiential learning program opportunity to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community. The program utilizes University assets and partnerships to provide interdisciplinary teams of students with unique opportunities to solve real-world business problems within a real-world entrepreneurial start-up environment, while directly resulting in the development of new products, businesses with scalable opportunities, jobs, and a highly skilled workforce to support regional industries and initiatives.

### ACTIVITIES

In Spin In, interdisciplinary teams of students partner with early-stage entrepreneurial companies to develop promising innovative ideas and to address technical and business challenges. Student teams with targeted interdisciplinary knowledge and skills in science, engineering, business, finance, marketing, design, policy, etc. are created. Teams are coached to self-assemble into 'product development teams' to address the challenges and spin solutions back to the company or entrepreneur.

### LEVERAGING

Spin In is led by the University of Delaware's (UD) Office of Economic Innovation and Partnerships (OEIP), an economic development portal that enables outside entities to access UD's knowledge-based assets. OEIP acts as a focal point, connecting idea generation, intellectual property management and technology transfer, proof of concept and commercialization resources, workforce development, and extensive business advisory services to cultivate early-stage companies and industry partnerships. OEIP also assists in the development and marketing of intellectual property to commercialize innovative discoveries into marketable opportunities and/or new businesses. Spin In students and entrepreneurs have direct access to this UD innovation infrastructure and OEIP capabilities and partnerships, such as the Technology Transfer Office, Delaware Small Business Development Center, APEX Accelerator of Delaware, Horn Entrepreneurship.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Critical to discovering new innovations is the development of a high skilled, technical workforce – which is essential within vibrant regional economic ecosystems. The program has engaged over 230 students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in fulfilling this mission with UD, OEIP and its partners

### INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ultimately, the program provides significant economic and social benefit, developing new products, businesses with scalable opportunities, jobs, and a highly skilled workforce to support regional industries and initiatives. The program has completed over 40 projects, developed 18 new products, and established 6 new businesses.

