Innovation York has a mandate to facilitate and maximize the commercial, economic, and social impacts of research and innovation, and to create a culture of engaged scholarship and experiential learning.

Our Activity

549 Agreements Reviewed
$46M Value of Agreements
80 Industry-Partnered Grants Supported
12 Community Projects Brokered
46 KMb Workshops Delivered
15 Invention Disclosures
$415K Commercialization Grant Funding
134 Start-up Ventures Supported
$10.4M Investment/Funding Raised by Ventures
95 Entrepreneurship Workshops Hosted
Key Highlights

Founded in 2014 through Innovation York's commercialization unit, Bitnobi, Inc. is a start-up focused on commercializing a privacy protected data sharing technology developed in the laboratory of Dr. Marin Litoiu. This year saw a significant breakthrough for this YorkU start-up, as it secured $470,000 from the Federal Government and $200,000 from the Canadian Department of Defense to deploy and test the technology. In addition, Bitnobi was named as a key participant in the Canadian Personalized Health Innovation Network led by Roche Canada. It's been a breakthrough year for Bitnobi and we can't wait to see what the future holds.

LaunchYU

This year Innovation York partnered with York University's Division of Advancement to create the Entrepreneurial Alumni Speaker Series; a series featuring top YorkU alumni entrepreneurs. Each of the four-part annual series aims to capture the real stories, challenges, successes and failures that they have encountered in their journeys. The talks are meant to INSPIRE, MOTIVATE, and EDUCATE the audience on the realities of launching a start-up in today's world. In the first year, four amazing entrepreneurs were featured: Sharon Vinderine, Founder & CEO of Parent Tested Parent Approved; Sheetal Jaitly, CEO of TribalScale; Jay Klein, Founder & CEO of The PUR Company Inc; and Drew Green, CEO & President of Indochino.

In partnership with the VISTA team, Innovation York developed and launched the VISTA Prototyping Fund. This fund supports core and associate members of VISTA in the development of a prototype (hardware or software) that will lead to the commercialization of a product that is aligned with the VISTA mandate. Four matching-grants of $50,000 were awarded this year: Prof. John Tsotsos, "Development of a Prototype Autonomous Wheelchair"; Prof. Alidad Amirfazli, "An Image based Surface Tensiometry Instrument using a Smartphone"; Prof. Tabatabaei, "Thermo-Photonic Devices for High-Sensitivity Interpretation of Cannabis Roadside Lateral Flow Immunoassay Tests"; and Prof. Elder, "Attentive Vision System for Video Creation".

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