

University

University of Montana

Center Director

Paul Gladen, Director
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Center Location

University of Montana
Innovation Factory

UC Established 2018

Center Activities

- Entrepreneurship and Startup Support
- 1-on-1 Consulting
- Pitch and Ideation Events
- I-Corps Customer Discovery Workshops
- Startup Ecosystem Development Assistance

Clients

- Rural and Indigenous Entrepreneurs and Innovators
- Startup ideas
- Startup businesses
- Existing businesses with growth potential

Contact

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Website

<http://acceleratemontana.umt.edu/departments/amrii/default.php>

University of Montana EDA University Center

The University of Montana EDA University Center envisions a Montana in which rural and indigenous Montanans have the support, training, and access to networks and resources they need in order to pursue their innovative and entrepreneurial ideas.

Program Focus

The program focuses on early stage, idea stage, and existing entrepreneurs and startups that have characteristics such as:

- A need for risk capital to help validate or scale the business
- Products and services that have potential beyond local and regional markets
- The opportunity to scale in terms of revenues and jobs
- Has ability to pay higher wages and bring economic wealth into a community from beyond the boundaries of Montana

Startup Services

We provide rural and indigenous communities with idea generation and stimulation activities, workshops and webinars (covering topics such as lean startup, customer discovery, business model and value proposition canvas, technology skills), networking events, pitch sessions, access to specialist expertise (e.g. legal, investor, industry specific experts) and access to mentors who are experienced in navigating startup ventures within the Montana startup landscape.

Startup Ecosystem

We not only seek to seed entrepreneurial activity within individual rural and indigenous communities but also connect communities so that resources and expertise can be shared and individuals with common areas of innovation and entrepreneurial interest can engage and interact. We have recently started utilizing StartupTree—a web platform for the Blackstone LaunchPad's at UM and MSU to facilitate this connection across rural and indigenous communities statewide.



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