

Innovation & Economic Development

July 2026



Baylor University's Office of Innovation & Economic Development supports institution-wide efforts to increase the quality and quantity of activities and outcomes related to innovation, startups, and job creation, with an emphasis on strengthening Waco's technology and innovation ecosystem.

Cybersecurity Research & Education Initiatives

Cybersecurity Summer Camp 2026

Together with McLennan Community College, Baylor hosted Cybersecurity Summer Camp 2026, led by Dr. [Erika Leal](#) and Dr. [Jeremy McCormick](#). Over five packed days, 24 high school students from across Texas dove into hands-on learning, capping the week by participated in the national CyberPatriot competition. As one of the fastest-growing and most critical fields in today's workforce, cybersecurity demands fresh talent and programs like this help inspire the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and cyber defenders.

A special thank you to our guest speakers: Hunter Isham ([Scinary Cybersecurity](#)), Nathan Wright ([Textron](#)), Brian Sitton ([Baylor ITS Research Technology](#)), and Dr. Mengfei Ren ([Baylor ECS](#)). The camp was directed by [David Grover](#), Sr. Director for Cyber Initiatives and supported by a team of undergraduate and graduate students from across Baylor.

Alongside the camp, Baylor hosted a teacher-training session for the **K-12 Cyber Pathways Program**. Educators from all eight school districts joining the 2026–2027 program received training tailored to the new curriculum and observed the instructional methods demonstrated throughout the week. Thank you to Dr. Sari McCoy from **CyberWorkforce** for providing a great two-day agenda with our K-12 partners!



Intellectual Property & Tech Transfer

Innovation Highlights

We are proud to recognize Baylor inventors who have advanced the technology transfer process this month through new invention disclosures and patent filings.

Juan Pablo Oviedo Robles, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has invented a new printer that will enable faster, purer, one step nanoscaled, macroscopic manufacturing of monolithic 3D integrated circuits. Did you think the monolith in 2001: A Space Odyssey was a big deal? Well, this monolith will be macroscopic in comparison!



Dr. Juan Pablo Oviedo Robles



Dr. Bree Jimenez

Dr. Bree Jimenez, professor in special education and chair of the Department of Educational Psychology, has helped develop preschool math kits designed to support math learning at home. So, if you forgot your preschool math, Dr. Jimenez can help you out. Then you can compete on the TV show *Are You Smarter than a Preschooler?*

Andrew Freeman, assistant professor of computer science in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, has found another way to improve streaming. So, if you'd like to take a break and relax next to a cool stream with a picnic basket and a fishing pole, Dr. Freeman can show you the way.



Dr. Andrew Freeman



The dynamic duo of Annette von Jouanne and Alex Yokochi from the School of Engineering and Computer Science has devised a mobile desalination device. So, the next time you are asked what one thing you would bring if you were stranded on a desert island, tell them: the von Jouanne- Yokochi mobile desalination device.

Trevor Hickok's work with the PONI team has resulted in a provisional patent application that addresses troublesome interlayer regions in additive friction stir deposition (AFSD). The result? No more onion layers in 3D metal printing. Cry no more!



Trevor Hickok



Dr. Jacob Hoarston

Jacob Hoarston led the PONI team in the submission of a provisional patent application that will relieve the stresses we encounter in our use of Additive Friction Stir Deposition (AFSD). It's time to relax and get some relief with a little help from the PONI Lab's AFSD technology. Now available in 3Deasy payments.

Tomas Cerny has led a team in Computer Science to a nonprovisional patent application that tests microservice system coverage from end to shiny end. If you think you're missing out on some of the middleware endpoint metrics in your microservice application analysis, check with Dr. Cerny to fill in the gaps.



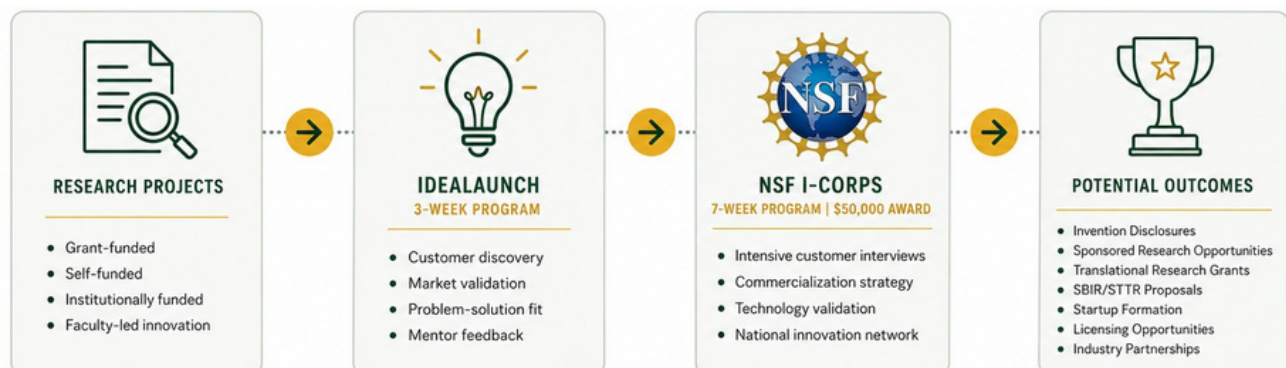
Dr. Tomas Cerny

Congratulations to all of these inventors and research teams on their meaningful contributions to Baylor's growing innovation and research portfolio.

Technologies Available for License

Technology Commercialization

IdeaLaunch



Baylor and the NSF I-Corps Southwest region are offering an IdeaLaunch Bootcamp: a three-week, four-session program open to entrepreneurial-minded researchers, engineers, scientists, artists, and business-minded creatives ready to turn ideas into businesses.

Team Requirements

- Two to five team members who can participate in all workshops and customer interviews
- Technical expertise related to the research or innovation and an idea for developing it into a product or service
- The appropriate rights or authorization to use the intellectual property

Program Expectations

- Teams are required to participate in all 4 sessions
- Conduct a minimum of 30 customer discovery interviews in 3 weeks

Sign up for Updates

Startup Support

Fall FastTrac Interest Meeting

This fall, Baylor's Office of Innovation & Economic Development is offering Kauffman FastTrac, an 8-week program equipping entrepreneurs with the skills to launch and grow a business. The program is open to everyone but is best suited for entrepreneurs who are within one year of launching a business or who have recently launched one.

Save the date for a virtual interest meeting: August 25 | 12:30–1:00 p.m. | Virtual

Events



Looking to start your own business?

Virtual Interest Meeting

Kauffman FastTrac Entrepreneurship Program

AUGUST 25TH

Baylor University
INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CYBERSECURITY FOR YOU!

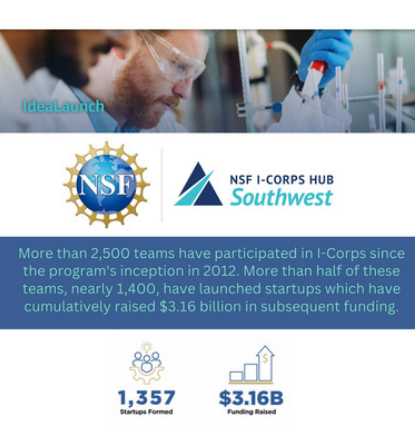
Comes to the BRIC This Fall

The Mayborn Museum's Lifelong Learning program will offer "Cybersecurity for You!", a new course taught by Dr. Erika Leal and hosted at the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative's Cyber Range. Designed for mature adults, this course will help you build confidence and essential skills for staying safe in today's digital world.

Course Date Wednesdays October 26, November 4, 11, and 18 1:00-2:00 P.M.	Class Size Capped at 32 participants	What You'll Learn Recognize online threats Protect your information Make informed decisions using everyday technology	Hosted At BRIC Cyber Range Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative
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Mayborn MUSEUM

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!



IdeaLaunch

NSF | **NSF I-CORPS HUB Southwest**

More than 2,500 teams have participated in I-Corps since the program's inception in 2012. More than half of these teams, nearly 1,400, have launched startups which have cumulatively raised \$3.16 billion in subsequent funding.

1,357 Startups Formed

\$3.16B Funding Raised

Stay connected with the Office of Innovation & Economic Development



John Crandall
Business Development Director



David Grover
Senior Director, Cyber Initiatives



Gary DeBoer
License and Patent Associate



Lesley Reed
Program Manager



Lauren Ralston
Strategic Partnership Manager

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