

NSF I-Corps and Innovation Node-Los Angeles

Tal Margalith (Executive Director of Technology at CNSI and SSLEEC)

With UCSB I-Corp alums: Jonathan Berger (Postdoc, Materials) and Christopher Pynn (Graduate Student, Materials)

Wednesday, March 7th

12-1:30pm, Elings Hall Rm 1601

Pizza provided at 11:45am



***Limited Space, RSVP required*:**

<https://forms-csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

The March 7 Lunch-and-Learn will describe both the NSF National I-Corps Program and the Innovation-Node LA funnel. A panel of prior participants of both the NSF and IN-LA programs will be on hand to discuss their experience and answer questions.

About NSF I-Corps and IN-LA:

The National Science Foundation I-Corps program was created by the NSF in 2011 to help move academic research it has funded to market, and offers entrepreneurship training to student and faculty participants. The I-Corps™ program provides \$50,000 to qualifying teams to investigate whether their technology-based idea might have commercial traction, addresses a customer pain-point, or would be best served with a technical pivot. The program is an intense 7-week flipped-classroom course that runs through the Product-Market fit portion of the Lean Launchpad business model canvas. The \$50,000 is leveraged for the extensive travel and networking necessary for customer discovery. The program moves teams towards a Go/No-go decision on incorporation.

To qualify for the National program, a team must have an Entrepreneurial lead (typically a graduate student or postdoc), a Principal Investigator (typically a faculty member, but the PI can also be a graduate student or a technical staff person), and an industry mentor. The technology should have an NSF-funded lineage. However, teams that don't meet these qualifications should not despair! Innovation-Node LA serves as a funnel for teams into the NSF National Program. The IN LA ZAP! and BOOM! courses establish the necessary NSF credentials for teams with no prior NSF funding. IN-LA also helps match teams with only an EL and PI to industry Mentors, and is currently helping NSF pilot a program in which industry mentors are not required.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Prepare for an I-Corps submission (or simply explore your pitch for your technology idea) with the UCSB ZAP (April 6 & 13) and the IN-LA BOOM (for those who have completed ZAP trainings, April 18 & 25, May 2 & 9)