

ACCESS TO EDUCATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MENTORSHIP



Local Policy Recommendations:

- Amplify shared resources and leverage grant opportunities via regional relationships.
- Develop cross-industry business coalitions to solve community specific challenges like logistical, technological and workforce issues.
- Encourage local entrepreneurial support organizations to collaborate on programmatic strategies to provide comprehensive support and reduce redundancy.
- Provide networking opportunities among diverse entrepreneurs.
- Work with entrepreneurial support organizations, create a robust programming recruitment strategy to reach diverse groups.

State Policy Recommendations:

- Champion a statewide mentorship network.
- Support access to high-speed internet and education as a priority economic development strategy.
- Prioritize education on low-code tools, no-code tools and artificial intelligence use.
- Support education and technical assistance on the trademark, patent and licensing process.
- Through public-private partnerships, support the creation and expansion of “scale up” programs.
- Align technical assistance to directly reflect the targeted industries of the state.
- Encourage entrepreneurial support organizations to collaborate on programmatic strategies to provide comprehensive support and reduce redundancy.

CASE STUDIES



LaunchTN Mentor Network

The LaunchTN Mentor Network offers a free mentoring program through the state of Tennessee that connects startups with industry leaders and experts across six verticals. The program allows Tennessee startups to network in the verticals of agriculture, consumer packaged goods (CPG), energy, fintech, life sciences and mobility. LaunchTN Mentor Network allows startups to strengthen their social network while gaining assistance navigating challenges to accelerate their growth.



Youth Engagement for Career Exploration and Entrepreneurship

The pi515 program in Des Moines, Iowa gives students the opportunity to explore a variety of career and entrepreneurial paths. The program allows students to connect with industry and corporate leaders to provide engagement and an inside look at industry opportunities—increasing their social mobility and expanding their professional networks.



Innovate Alabama

A public-private partnership, Innovate Alabama Network serves as a comprehensive resource that efficiently connects nonprofits, communities and higher education institutions fostering innovative ideas. The program aims to activate innovation by creating a broader network of programming in rural and urban areas and provide access to seed funding for localities and communities while coordinating additional partners.