



Connecting high-potential founders to a powerful network of advisors, sector expertise, non-dilutive funding, and sources of capital.

Developed by JumpStart Inc. and its partners, startups receive targeted support from ideation through traction. Backed by the Ohio Third Frontier, we help founders build scalable, venture-backable companies and strengthen Ohio's innovation ecosystem.

SUPPORT AT EVERY STAGE OF THE JOURNEY



CENTERS of EXCELLENCE
Advanced Energy

The Advanced Energy Center of Excellence makes programming available to meet the needs of energy innovators at all stages.

IDEATION : Exploring & Shaping an Idea

BRITEbase

Specialized business training is offered for early-stage technical founders working on energy transition technologies. The program equips participants with foundational business skills, helping build a roadmap from concept to commercialization and assess readiness for next-stage support.

VALIDATION : Proving the Concept

BRITEelevate

Using hands-on mentoring and customized program and resource support, BRITEelevate closes both the distance and timeline between strategic development and successful industry engagement.

CWRU Core Facility Use

Access to 40+ specialized facilities for fabrication, testing, and characterization provides affordable, pay-as-you-go use of high-cost equipment and expertise, helping founders move faster while conserving capital. Facilities include solar device testing, materials processing, among others.

CWRU Launch Services

Founders who are members of CWRU's 11000 Cedar Startup Incubator are connected with domain experts to validate the business model and potentially embed those experts into the startup prior to raising dilutive capital.

TRACTION : Early Customers & Measurable Momentum

CWRU Startup Services

Founders who are members of 11000 Cedar Startup Incubator make connections to vetted, subsidized service providers for critical functions like HR, accounting, and marketing. This helps founders avoid costly missteps and extend their runway.

Includes these additional programs from Validation stage:

BRITEelevate, CWRU Core Facility Use

PRE-SEED TO SEED+ : Securing Early Funding to Scale

BRITEascent

For founders preparing to raise institutional capital for the first time, this program offers expert coaching, financial modeling, pitch development, and investor strategy support.

BRITE CxO Program

Startups are connected with experienced fractional executives who can step in as part of the team and fill critical leadership gaps. These embedded leaders bring strategic and operational expertise to help startups scale, drive sales, and prepare for fundraising – without the cost of a permanent hire.

Includes these additional programs from Validation and Traction stages:

CWRU Core Facility Use, CWRU Startup Services

SERIES A : Accelerating Growth with Investment

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SPECIALIZED PARTNERS



SHARED SERVICE PARTNERS



Bounce supports capital readiness through the Northeast Ohio Student Venture Fund and offers hands-on workshops designed for founders who are looking to expand their skills and knowledge to scale their businesses effectively, these interactive and hands-on workshops allow founders to engage with subject matter experts and are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

MAGNET supports hard tech startups with tailored resources for manufactured products, including prototyping, engineering expertise, operations assistance, and early-stage funding connections. MAGNET also runs Mspire, an annual manufacturing pitch competition for support services, and the Advanced Manufacturing Fund, an early-stage investment fund.



The Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI), an affiliate of Parallax Advanced Research, provides guidance to founders applying to the Ohio Third Frontier's Technology Validation and Startup Fund (TVSF) and federal SBIR/STTR grants, specializing in working closely with deep tech startups to navigate key steps in the commercialization process.

UARF introduces the Business Model Canvas through Starting Line, its five-step, self-directed pre-accelerator program. For teams seeking to further validate ideas and better understand customer needs, UARF offers the NSF-funded I-Corps Program and Advanced Customer Discovery, which are six-week, online programs. UARF's i-Pitch competition runs three times annually, providing recent I-Corps graduates the opportunity to pitch and compete for funding.



Learn more about this and the other Centers of Excellence at jumpstartinc.org/coe