

Quarterly

Newsletter March 2023



MARGARET DODZI
FOUNDER OF MEDLORM
FASHION
JLMCF PROGRAM



Dunin-Deshpande
Queen's INNOVATION CENTRE

Take a look at some of the highlights of the last 10 years of DDQIC



2012

After the successful pilot of QICSI, Queen's Innovation Connector (QIC) becomes a new unit within Queen's University to advance this program and other entrepreneurship initiatives.



2013

QICSI Eligibility Expands to All Disciplines and the Community and First on-campus Makerspace in Canada was established.



2014

QIC received its first major grant from the Ontario Centres of Excellence Campus Linked Accelerator program.



2015

The Masters of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship launches. QIC helps to rebuild the CHEE 310 undergraduate course and also launches design thinking workshops on campus, and these mark the centre's first curricular efforts.



2016

Together with Queen's Partnerships and Innovation, DDQIC launches the Foundry program to give QICSI teams the opportunity to start a company to commercialize Queen's research. The first Foundry company, RockMass Technologies, is born.



2017

Together with the Faculty of Arts and Science, DDQIC develops courses for the Certificate in Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity, allowing students in the Faculty to study key topics in entrepreneurship and problem-solving alongside their degree.



2018

DDQIC partners with the City of Kingston to offer an annual prize for the Mayor's Innovation Challenge competition, the first of many collaborations to spur entrepreneurship in the community.



2019

DDQIC and SparQ Studios move into the Rose Innovation Hub in the brand new Mitchell Hall. It is the first pan-university space on main campus for entrepreneur coworking and collaboration. DDQIC can now offer physical spaces for networking, events, offices, co-working, and prototyping.



2020

DDQIC receives an endowment from the Mastercard Foundation to launch the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship to address unemployment among African recent graduates, and accepts over 1000 African youth into the first virtual cohort.



2021

DDQIC launches the Build2Scale Health program to contribute to the Health Innovation YGK, a \$3 million project supported by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

The next 10 years of Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre



"In the years that follow, we will be focused on creating opportunities for students and faculty to engage with and mobilize research for social, environmental, and economic impact. We will continue to foster a culture of change-making through entrepreneurship courses, curriculum, and experiential learning so that students develop the skill sets and attitudes necessary to succeed in whatever career path they pursue."

**- Dr. Jim McLellan
Academic Director**



"In the last 10 years we have designed programs with validated success in increasing entrepreneurial mindsets and supporting the creation of new business ventures to achieve social and economic impact. As we look forward to the next 10 years, our focus will be to scale this impact through global programs and partnerships. Our mission is to equip communities with entrepreneurial skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing economy, expand access to entrepreneurship opportunities, and establish Queen's University as a globally embedded institution engaged in solving the world's challenges."

**- Greg Bavington
Executive Director**

www.queensu.ca/innovationcentre



Kingsley Kwaku Pinkrah, Founder and CEO of CEDI Ghana, during the E-Jobs4all Program Announcement

ENTREPRENEURSHIP JOBS FOR ALL

Focused on supporting Ghanaian youth, E-jobs4All provides free entrepreneurship and innovation training through an academic curriculum designed by DDQIC. This program allows youth to learn critical entrepreneurial skills and network with business leaders across the globe.

Through ongoing partnerships between E-jobs4All and the Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre, Ghanaian youth are able to further explore innovative solutions that tackle common challenges.

E-Jobs4All began in 2017 as a means of addressing high rates of youth unemployment in Ghana. This segment represented an estimated 77% of the unemployed population in 2017. Following round-table policy discussions and economic research, it became apparent that the most efficient way of solving the youth unemployment crisis was to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

“DDQIC and partner institutions came together to share their dream and create a great impact in Ghana.”

As an institution with over a decade of experience honing and validating its entrepreneurship curriculum, DDQIC is able to shared proven courses and expertise with EJobs4All. Offering courses that are practical in nature, such as design thinking and business model canvas, have allowed Ghanaian youth to apply their creativity in new and exciting ways.

This pilot program aims to support African institutions in the creation of entrepreneurial ecosystems. As of 2023, around 46% of program participants are aspiring entrepreneurs in the process of establishing a business venture. DDQIC will continue supporting Ejobs4All in the development of their academic curriculums.

- Kingsley Kwaku Pinkrah

NOMINEES
—
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE OF THE
YEAR
—
ACEEU AWARDS

DDQIC SELECTED AS TOP 5 FINALIST FOR GLOBAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD



DDQIC has been confirmed as a Top 5 Finalist for the Triple E Awards "Community Engagement Initiative of the Year" category for its Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship (JL MCF) Program! JL MCF is for African students and recent graduates who want to solve pressing problems by bringing their entrepreneurial ideas to life. In 2 years, the program has engaged over 2300 students, in 276 universities, across 49 countries, and awarded over \$117,000 CAD to African founders and their ventures.

The Award Ceremony will take place June 26-29th, 2023.

Stay tuned to find out if the program receives a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ranking!

"The Triple E Awards are a global recognition of efforts towards the quest for entrepreneurship and engagement in higher education. It is the first award to focus specifically on different dimensions of the universities' third mission. The Triple E Awards aim to foster change in universities and to emphasize their role in their communities and ecosystems."

- Triple E Awards Excerpt

LAUNCH OF QIIHSC PILOT PROGRAM TO FOSTER ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

In the fall of 2022, the pilot program of Queen's International Innovation High School Competition (QIIHSC) was launched in Toronto and Vietnam with a total of 140 students and 4 teachers participating in the program. QIIHSC aims to develop the entrepreneurial skills of high school students and inspire them to address global issues. Students were given the opportunity to participate in the program as either a club or part of a class. They completed online training covering topics like Innovator's Mindset, Design Thinking, Business Model Canvas, and Pitching. With guidance from their teachers, students worked in teams to develop their own business ideas, getting inspiration from the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Students who submit their business ideas will have the opportunity to present their pitches at the end of May to members of DDQIC's Global Network. By submitting a final pitch, students will be eligible to earn a Queen's micro-credential on entrepreneurship, as well as compete for seed funding prizes.

At the John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, one of the partnering schools in the pilot, students worked on ventures to address topics like bicycle safety and applying augmented reality to education and work. Students delivered elevator pitches to DDQIC's Executive Director Greg Bavington and Program Manager Chloe Beisheim. Grade 11 students from John Polanyi are now scheduled to travel to Queen's campus in May for an overnight experience in residence that will give them the opportunity to learn about innovation with DDQIC in Mitchell Hall.



The collaboration between the teachers and DDQIC has allowed the program to take shape. **“The teachers who are the first to co-deliver this program have provided us with incredible insights on how to design its content for facilitators and youth of any experience level”,** said Chloe Beisheim, Program Coordinator.

The delivery of workshops are an integral part of the success of the program. DDQIC has delivered over 10 workshops to high school students in Kingston, Vietnam, India, and China to promote the program and will help establish more pilots in high schools for the 2023-2024 academic year.

“QIIHSC aims to reach youth and develop their confidence to pursue post-secondary education, especially those who wouldn't normally be considering a residential university experience at Queen's University. By providing a micro-credential, the program seeks to increase awareness of post-secondary opportunities at Queen's University.”

- Greg Bavington, Executive Director

What's Next for Women in Entrepreneurship Programs

Konnect was launched with support from FedDev Ontario as part of the WE-CAN Project. While the FedDev Women Entrepreneurship Strategy grant is coming to an end, DDQIC will continue to support women entrepreneurs!

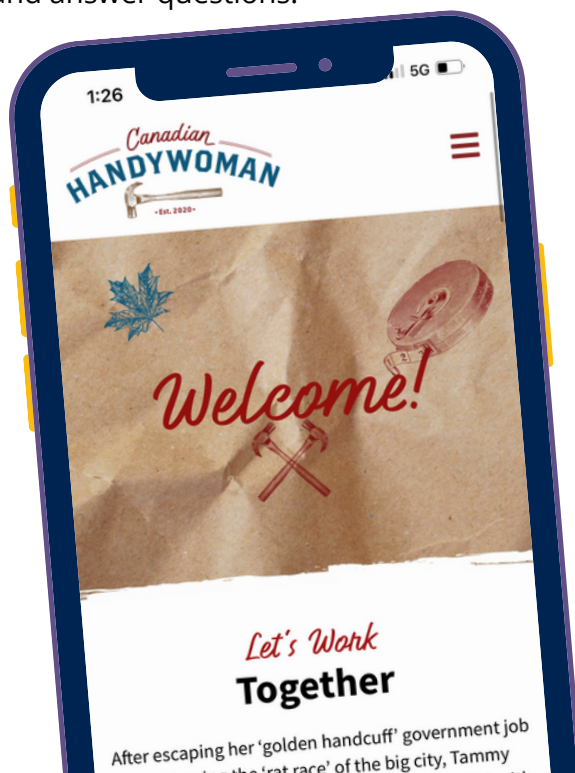
For three years, WE-CAN has provided a dedicated personal and professional development support program for over 900 women entrepreneurs. **These women later went on to create and maintain 262 permanent jobs and 114 temporary jobs during the first two years.**

Despite the FedDev support wrapping up, DDQIC will continue offering Konnect and the Hive so that women can have an inclusive space to explore ideas and develop their businesses. Konnect serves as a series of community-building sessions for female entrepreneurs while the Hive offers a safe space to ask and answer questions.

Since 2019, DDQIC has helped expand the number of female entrepreneurs represented in the QICSI program from **39%** to **46%** and the QYourVenture program from **22%** to **41%**. Providing female entrepreneurs with the ability to participate in targeted acceleration programs gives them the confidence, network, and mentorship needed to continuously develop their ventures.

Take the Canadian Handywoman as an example. This is a female-owned business that emerged from the Konnect program, and now encourages women to be confident, resourceful, and independent along the journey to becoming their own handywoman.

This business provides a safe community to ask and answer questions, showcase accomplishments, and uplift other women during their exploration of all things DIY and home maintenance.



"With the Konnect program, I've enjoyed having access to such an array of information, guidance and support to help me understand, build, and move my business forward."

- Tammy Watson, Owner of Canadian Handywoman





CO2L Tech Manufactures their First Prototype



LONG TERM SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP FROM DDQIC

“DDQIC is the ideal first incubator where you receive mentorship and challenge your idea to make sure your venture is feasible and ensure you are equipped with business knowledge to succeed”

- Dr. Anh Tran-Ly

From left to right: Dr. Anh Tran-Ly and Dr. Tu Nguyen, co-founders of Co2L Technologies

Congratulations to Co2L Tech for winning the 2022 Summer Pitch Competition! Dr. Tu Nguyen and Dr. Anh Tran-Ly shared with DDQIC their next steps and what the future holds for Co2L.

Co2L Tech is a startup committed to reducing carbon emissions and transforming them into industrially useful chemicals to tackle climate change. After being part of the Build2Scale Program in 2022 and winning the Grand Prize of \$30,000, they continued with their venture and started their search for new partnerships to scale their technology.

Dr. Anh and Dr. Tu traveled to Vietnam where they found a potential partnership to manufacture their first prototype. With the constant support from mentors at DDQIC and their new partnership in Vietnam, Co2L Tech has developed a new product that can be ready for commercialization in the near future.

They are currently part of a 6-month program at Foresight Canada, a cleantech accelerator that supports the commercialization of companies led by committed teams driven by environmental impact and are looking to scale climate solutions.

“When we started we were two scientists and we had the idea that we wanted to make useful products from Co2. DDQIC and its network of mentors opened a new frontier of innovation for us.”

- Dr. Tu Nguyen

Administrative AI Reduces Wait Room Times



WaiveTheWait makes AI tools to reduce administrative strain in clinical settings. These tools handle repetitive tasks so that staff can focus on supporting physicians, and so physicians can focus on serving their patients. This project began in the QICSI program and was further supported with Build2Scale resources granted by DDQIC.

Shrey Anand, founder of Waive the Wait, says that it was a critical conversation with Greg that encouraged the team to pivot to focus on a clinical perspective. Further conversations with mentors and business advisors in the QICSI program reinforced this direction.

“Eternally grateful to DDQIC for giving us the capacity to let our minds soar.”

SHREYANSH ANAND

CEO Of Waive the Wait

WaiveTheWait has now been implemented across 10 clinical settings, with revenue generated from 7 of their clients. WaiveTheWait is also being used in telemedicine clinics with implementation started in one Canadian and one American organizations.

Now WaiveTheWait is turning their attention towards the TigerLaunch 2022-23 Competition. They recently participated in the Top 15 competition in New York and have been selected for the Finals. Winning this competition would mean advancing their exploratory phase, gaining valuable industry connections and raising brand awareness.

WaiveTheWait is headquartered in office space granted by DDQIC in the Rose Innovation Hub on Queen's University campus, where they are co-located with other entrepreneurs and the DDQIC team of mentors.

Increased activities in the Rose Innovation Hub

Supporting Student Leadership

After a sharp decline in club activities during the pandemic, we are excited to report that DDQIC is now sponsoring 23 student-led conferences and clubs on innovation and entrepreneurship! This represents a 52% increase since the 2021-2022 academic year.

Each year, DDQIC sponsors around 20 student-led conferences, events, and initiatives that align with our mandate to support innovation and entrepreneurship at Queen's and in the Kingston region. With an increase in demand for funding, sponsorship for innovation and entrepreneurship related clubs and events has become much more competitive.



"The Cansbridge Queen's University Conference held in Mitchell Hall allowed me to explore non-traditional career paths related to entrepreneurship. I felt confident about my career ambitions following the conference after seeing former students present their company status and success only a few years after graduating."

- Student delegate testimonial

By supporting these student-led clubs and conferences, DDQIC helps foster innovation and entrepreneurship within the Queen's campus and surrounding communities, opens opportunities for networking and collaboration, and fosters an ecosystem centered around equity, diversity, and inclusion.

[Explore clubs and conferences](#)



Upcoming Events



Ignition Café

Health Innovation: Positioning Canadian Health Innovations for Success

Learn about the data and evidence required to have your technology considered for funding opportunities and use in a health-care setting.

April 20, 2023

5PM - 8PM

**Rose Event Commons 69
Union Street Kingston, ON**



Rural Health Meeting

Meeting to talk about PORCH: Portable Outreach Care Hub

Join DDQIC for an informative discussion on the opportunities to expand PORCH who supports those who face barriers to accessing care by providing accessible and equitable services.

April 21, 2023

12PM - 1PM

**Rose Event Commons 69
Union Street Kingston, ON**



Summer Pitch
Competition

Applications Accepted during the month of July

The competition is open to ventures in the Kingston community from all disciplines and backgrounds, for the opportunity to win non-dilutive seed funding.

More Details Coming Soon:

[Click Here for Event Updates](#)



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