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Sac State launches entrepreneurial incubator

Sacramento State's College of Business Administration, a beehive of innovative ideas, is about to launch another project to benefit campus and community.

The Center for Entrepreneurship in Folsom Hall will be unveiled Thursday, Sept. 29. Associate Professor Seung Bach will direct the program designed to generate start-up enterprises less than a year old.

Bach and Dean Sanjay Varshney have been working on the center concept for more than a year. All that remains is to put the finishing touches on the program that could be a boon to would-be entrepreneurs.

The Center will provide free office space in Folsom Hall for six months for individuals to hone their ideas. They will receive mentoring from faculty and advisory board members, as well as help from student-volunteer interns. Those who are making significant progress can receive another six months to complete their projects.

The Center's new venture incubator, says Bach, "welcomes any start-ups from a wide range of industries, including high-tech based emerging industries such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, clean energy, and second-generation Internet technology. The Center is particularly interested in the region's niche industries, such as information technology, agricultural/agri. technology, supply-chain and transportation, and wholesale and warehouse industries as well."

He believes there are underserved markets and industries in the region that can be helped by the new Center. The program's mission is to highlight these market voids

and assist entrepreneurs in filling the gaps. The center is willing to accommodate ventures that are not typically backed by traditional venture capitalists, such as non-high-tech and family businesses if they are economically viable.

Bach, who is bullish on the program, came to Sacramento State nine years ago and specializes in entrepreneurship and strategy. He visualizes the new venture incubator as “nurturing innovative business ideas and capitalizing on potential entrepreneurial opportunities, both from the campus and local entrepreneurship communities.”

The synergistic possibilities of this center punctuate Sacramento State’s mission of teaching, learning and service.

For more information, visit www.entrepreneurship.csus.biz. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156.

– Alan Miller

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