SPARTAN INNOVATIONS VENTURE FELLOWS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY
Many science and engineering-focused graduate students will follow a career path in private industry rather than academia. Spartan Innovations, part of the MSU Foundation, is launching a new opportunity for these students to acquire relevant exposure to business concepts and processes during their course of study. The Spartan Innovations Venture Fellows program was launched in order to provide graduate students with the opportunity to gain experience in technology commercialization as a part of a structured program aimed at advancing MSU-developed technologies.

This annual program will run across the academic year from the beginning of September to end of April each year. SI Venture Fellows will be grouped into three person teams – one business school graduate student and two STEM students – who will select a project from available early stage technologies. Over the next eight months the students will be responsible for developing and executing a plan for moving the technology towards commercialization. It is anticipated that at the end of the period, there will be a clear path towards launching the technology as a startup company.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
There are two main objectives for the Venture Fellows program. The first is to provide an opportunity for MSU graduate students from the sciences and College of Business to gain first-hand business experience in the commercialization of breakthrough technology. The second objective is to advance the development of MSU technologies with the eventual goal of increasing the number of successful technology startups from the University.

REQUIREMENTS
Students are expected to contribute 8 to 10 hours a week to the program. Weekly team progress meetings with the Program Director are required. The majority of the work will be team-based but there may be occasional individual assignments.

Qualified graduate students will have completed their course work for their PhD, and preferably have finished comprehensive exams, but will be at least a year from completing their dissertation. Preference is for students in life sciences, physical sciences, computer science or communications.

BENEFITS
Participants will be paid a fellowship of $6,500 for the eight month period in addition to their existing support. Additionally, Venture Fellows will gain unparalleled experience in technology commercialization under the supervision of an experienced team of entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.
PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

For those interested in applying to the program or requiring more information, please contact the Program Director:

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Due date for applications for the 2015/16 program is August 17, 2015