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News Release

SPARTANS & STARTUPS: UTAMPA IGNITING INNOVATION WITH THE SPARTAN SPARK FUND LAUNCH AT IT'S LOWTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FEBRUARY 6, 2024

As of January 25, 2024 The University of Tampa's Lowth Entrepreneurship Center is pleased to announce the launch of the Spartan Spark Fund, a ground-breaking project aimed at fostering innovation and empowering aspiring entrepreneurs within the university's community.

The Spartan Spark program is an innovative attempt by the University of Tampa to provide its students with the support and funds needed to take their business aspirations to the next level. Additionally, students will learn to cooperate successfully and develop solutions to real-world business problems.

The program aims to provide students with no-pay-back grants, along with the Lowth Center's education on the skills and mindset required to thrive in today's fast changing global landscape. By combining hands-on projects, mentorship opportunities, and experiential learning, The University of Tampa's Entrepreneurship program has been rated #1 in the south and #15 in the nation. This combined with the newly implemented Spartan Spark fund, students will be motivated to pursue their business ventures with essential knowledge and up to \$1500 in funding from the Spartan Spark program.

"One of the reasons for Spartan Spark is to create innovative, entrepreneurial programming here at the school," said Berth Seither. "If you look around at other schools every entrepreneurship program has a pitch competition, has mentors you can go talk to, but not every school has a fund that students can access to be able to bring their idea to life, and so that's what's kind of unique."

The Spartan Spark Fund will provide funding for a variety of entrepreneurial endeavors, including startups, nonprofit organizations, and innovative projects within many industries. Furthermore, student recipients of the fund will have access to mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs, networking opportunities, and educational initiatives to help them overcome the hurdles of starting and growing a successful business. This is all made possible by the incredible support of donors, alumni, and community partners who are dedicated to encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation within today's youth.

The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center's Mission:

“The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center at the University of Tampa aims to foster an entrepreneurial mindset, encourage innovation, and enable individuals to convert their ideas into valuable businesses that generate positive change in our community and beyond. We hope to establish an environment where innovation flourishes and entrepreneurial leaders emerge through the combination of education, mentorship, and financial support.”

About the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center:

The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center at the University of Tampa has the objective of promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and empowering individual students to explore what drives them, and use their business ideas to influence the community. The center equips students for success as entrepreneurs and leaders through their programs such as the newly implemented Spartan Spark fund, along with a supportive business-oriented community. From non-profit projects and mentorship programs, to networking events and financing opportunities to grow student-founded businesses, the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center enables students to put their ideas into action and make an impact in the Tampa Bay community and beyond. The center prepares the next generation of innovators and leaders to impact the future of entrepreneurship by combining academic talent, real-world experience, and a supportive community of peers and mentors. Please visit www.ut.edu/entrepreneurcenter/ for additional information.

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