

Press release



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HackCville Announces the Elliewood Fellowship to Support Top U.Va. Graduates Staying and Starting Companies in Charlottesville

New program builds on HackCville's successful programs to train top students and develop Charlottesville's talent pool and startup ecosystem

Charlottesville, VA, March 21, 2018 -- HackCville, a hub for U.Va. students pursuing careers in entrepreneurship, announces today the Elliewood Fellowship, a one-year program that gives top graduates a viable path to start ventures in Charlottesville and contribute to the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Elliewood Fellowship creates an on-ramp to entrepreneurial careers through financial support, community, office space, training, and mentorship. The Fellowship is an annual program that begins this May with its first cohort of 11 graduates, selected from HackCville's top 4th Year members. The program builds upon HackCville's existing offerings that develop the technical and entrepreneurial skills of more than 500 students each year.

"The inaugural class of Elliewood Fellows have refused corporate job offers at Goldman Sachs, Blackstone, McKinsey, and more," says Chip Ransler, HackCville's Executive Director. "Their skills and entrepreneurial ability make them extremely attractive to traditional consulting, finance, and big tech companies. We created The Elliewood Fellowship to enable these graduates to take a non-traditional path and do what they truly want to do: to stay in Charlottesville and build meaningful ventures in and for our community."

The Fellows' ventures are largely focused on social impact. Elliewood Fellow Graham Smith created Orthotrac, a biomedical device to prevent further injuries in patients who have had orthopedic surgeries. Fellow Shafat Khan is co-founder of Shakti, an apparel brand that funds women's education in India. Other Fellows are focused on online education, mental health, non-profit marketing, and other social issues.

"We believe that Charlottesville is a perfect place to stay, start a business, and contribute to our growing community," says Daniel Willson, HackCville's Director of Operations. "We're excited to expand this program in future years to dramatically increase the number of entrepreneurial graduates staying in Charlottesville and contribute to the intellectual capital of our city."

HackCville is partnering with the City of Charlottesville's Office of Economic Development, Charlottesville Business & Innovation Council (CBIC), the Tom Tom Founders Festival, and Common

House to provide support for the fellowship. Additional partners will be announced within the coming weeks.

About HackCville

[HackCville](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit talent accelerator that develops the skills, networks, and entrepreneurial ability of talented U.Va. students. HackCville supports 50+ local companies in their need for talent and empowers top students to start companies of their own. HackCville creates confident, competent, socially-conscious leaders with the mindset and motivation to make a truly positive difference in the world.

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