

[< BACK](#)SHARE:   

UCU Foundation Welcomed 42 of the Brightest Ukrainian Entrepreneurs to Palo Alto for the Stanford Ignite Ukraine Program

THURSDAY, 28 MARCH, 2024

On March 22, Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation and the Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco hosted a Networking Reception for 42 Ukrainian business leaders participating in the Stanford Ignite Ukraine educational program. The program is a joint initiative launched by the Stanford Graduate School of Business and CfE accelerator of Ukrainian Catholic University, designed to support Ukrainian entrepreneurs poised to drive their nation's economic reconstruction.



"We are extremely proud to announce this group of 42 entrepreneurs from Ukraine, several of whom are also graduates of the business school at UCU. The knowledge these business owners gain through the program will certainly help to further their endeavors and boost the economic revival of Ukraine. In turn, I think they will inspire us with that innovative, resourceful, and indefatigable spirit that Ukraine and Ukrainians show the world daily," shared Annetta Hewko.

As Dmytro Kushneruk pointed out, the gathering represents the largest Ukrainian delegation ever hosted in California. The reception aimed to bring together Ukraine's brightest entrepreneurial minds, the Silicon Valley community, and everyone supporting the renewal of Ukraine.



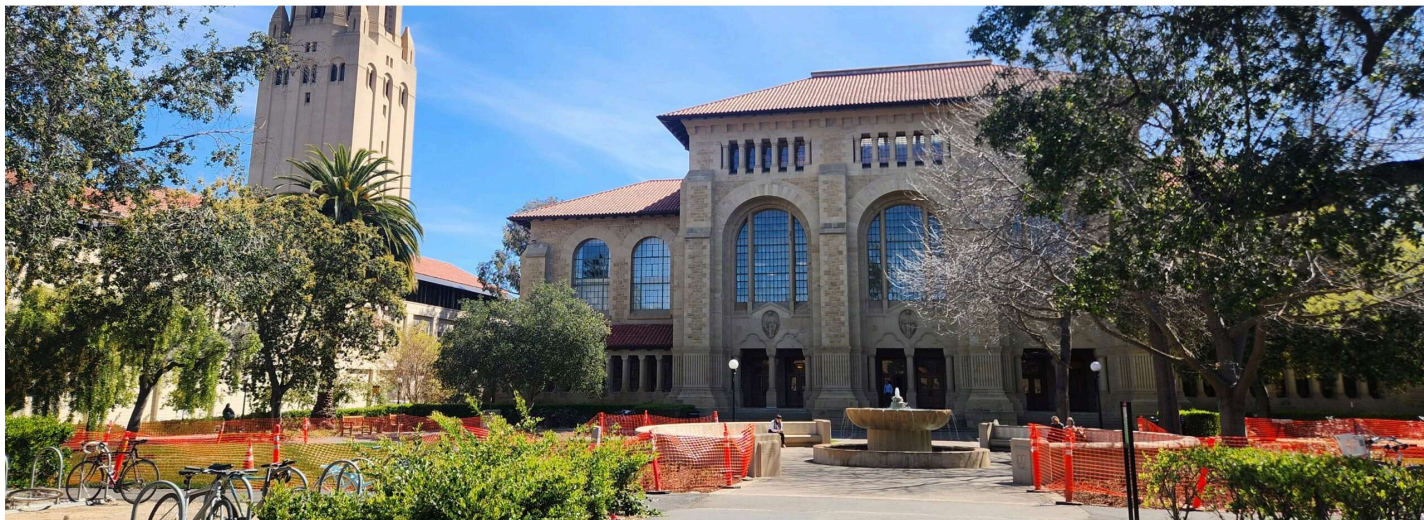
Attendees also heard featured remarks by Penny Pritzker, U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery and former Secretary of Commerce; Michael McFaul, Director of Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and former U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation; Yossi Feinberg, Director of Stanford Ignite at Stanford GSB; and Ivan Petrenko, CEO of CfE accelerator at UCU.

"UCU has been a trailblazer in higher education in Ukraine. Its business school, founded just a little over 15 years ago, has become one of the top-ranked programs in Ukraine. We all share its vision to put Ukraine on the world's business map. Advancements like this are crucial to

increase collaboration between Ukrainian entrepreneurs and the business and tech community in the United States,” said Penny Pritzker in her video message.

Ms. Pritzker believes that the Stanford Ignite Ukraine model will become something we replicate across the country. She thanked the program participants, emphasizing that they are the reason Ukraine’s economy continues to chart a positive future even amidst all of Russia’s attacks, adding, *“Since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion, 47,200 new companies have started operations across Ukraine, proving that the economy is alive, active, and resilient. And we will be there to support you along the way. The United States government and USAID have provided 230 million dollars in private sector support, including 23,250 small and medium-sized enterprises...which have helped create or retain over 140,000 jobs.”*

The program participants are prominent Ukrainian entrepreneurs who have continued to operate during the war and demonstrated their resilience and determination to thrive under any circumstance. Among them are **Liki24.com**, a medicine search and delivery service known as Ukraine’s pharmaceutical Uber; **Athlon Avia**, a local drone producer; **rekava**, a CleanTech startup relocated from the east of Ukraine that crafts biodegradable products from coffee grounds; **Gorgany**, a retail chain offering hiking and sports apparel and equipment; and **hotline.finance**, an insurance comparison and online application service. The complete list of participants and their companies is [available here](#). As a part of the Stanford Ignite Ukraine program, Ukrainian business leaders will spend three weeks at Stanford GSB, engaging in intensive classes led and mentored by top-tier instructors. Upon completion of their studies, the entrepreneurs will return to Ukraine to implement the knowledge gained within existing enterprises.



Michael McFaul, Director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, commended Stanford GSB for its bridge-building role between Ukraine and the United States. In his address, he delivered a persuasive statement, *“The dynamism of Ukraine’s private sector is going to make the country one of the leaders in Europe. You will be a driver and exporter of wealth and security, not an importer of assistance.”*

The initiative to establish such an educational opportunity for Ukrainians came from Nataliya Anon, CEO & Founder of Svitla Systems and an alumna of the Stanford Graduate School of Business. She has played a key role in the program’s development and financial support as a member of the UCU Foundation board and a proud supporter of UCU.

“For myself and other donors, providing constant scholarship for the very capable Ukrainian youth is like helping to unearth and empower other Shevchenkos, Ukrainkas, Korolevs, Maleviches, Pulujs and influence the lives of Ukrainian society,” shared Nataliya Anon.

The Stanford Graduate School of Business launched the Stanford Ignite Ukraine program in collaboration with the CfE accelerator of UCU, with support from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the USAID Competitive Economy Program in Ukraine (USAID CEP), and Ukrainian Catholic University. The program is planned to be developed further over the next four years.



Digest of events and news

Get the weekly newsletter of UCU events and news
in your mailbox

SUBSCRIBE

You will be interested

FRIDAY, 5 APRIL, 2024

«Ukraine stands on the right side of history»

THURSDAY, 4 APRIL, 2024

Putin the Pilate

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL, 2024

Not only «Stand with Ukraine» but also «Win with Ukraine»

THURSDAY, 28 MARCH, 2024

UCU Foundation Welcomed 42 of the Brightest Ukrainian Entrepreneurs to...

WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH, 2024

Supporting Ukrainian entrepreneurs abroad – A project of students of...



[SUPPORT US](#) [BECOME A STUDENT](#) **Secretariat of UCU**

Sventsitsky str., 17
Lviv, 79011

Secretariat of UCU

Tel.: **+38 (032) 240-99-40**

Email: **info@ucu.edu.ua**

We are in social networks:



All Rights Reserved © 2024 Ukrainian Catholic University

Made by