StartUP FIU is an initiative with a mission to foster and develop innovation and entrepreneurship to fully leverage the opportunities presented by The Fourth Industrial Revolution for FIU and the Miami community. Fueled by the digital economy, we are at an age where disruptive technologies are coming to market at unprecedented speed. We passionately believe that there has been no better time to scale breakthrough innovations to solve some of society’s most complex social issues.

We Engage, Empower, and Enrich a diverse group of people who are passionate about innovation and entrepreneurship. Diversity improves collaboration, and collaboration is the key to new ideas and discoveries. Our platform serves individuals and companies at any age, at any stage.

**Engaging Our Community**
StartUP FIU serves students, faculty/staff, alumni and the community in an effort to break down silos and foster collaboration.

In the last two years, StartUP FIU has hosted 91 events involving speakers, ranging from startup entrepreneurs to tech giants to audiences totaling nearly 10,500 from the South Florida Community. Approximately thirty percent of those in the audience were students, with more than 7,000 individuals being community members with no FIU affiliation. It is evident that the insatiable appetite to learn more about innovation and entrepreneurship extends beyond FIU’s campus.

**State-of-the-Art Facilities:**
- **StartUP FIU Empower Accelerator:** located at the Modesto Maidique campus, is an accelerator that commercializes early-stage companies and faculty research. We support a wide range of tech and more conventional industries.
- **StartUP FIU Food:** is a cooperative effort with the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management to leverage a state of the art commercial kitchen to develop food entrepreneurs from the community. This program is supported by a grant from The Citi Foundation.
- **StartUP FIU Proof of Concept:** works with early-stage researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs to prototype their ideas and take the first steps towards commercialization.
The Empower Accelerator is StartUP FIU’s comprehensive, 14-week program to develop scalable traditional and social entrepreneurship ventures. The program provides coaches, skills training, advisors, mentors, speakers, a cutting-edge work space and a wide range of additional resources to first-time as well as more accomplished entrepreneurs.

StartUP FIU’s Innovation Hub is designed to facilitate taking companies from idea to enterprise. The program prepares companies to be investor pitch ready by combining best practices from accomplished entrepreneurs and veteran academics.

Companies or teams selected for each cohort bear no costs for The Empower Accelerator program and retain 100% of the equity in their venture. Our goal is to equip individuals with the necessary expertise and experience, access to best practices and mentors, to develop their ideas into scalable ventures faster.
Proof of Concept Studio
Powered by StartUP FIU

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

StartUP FIU’s Proof of Concept Studio is an intensive, hands-on program designed for early stage entrepreneurs who want to move from idea to prototype in just six weeks.

This program will help you:

- (in)validate your assumptions and idea
- Identify your customer/user
- Size the opportunity (market)
- Rapidly test your solution
- Understand the difference between prototypes & MVP

FOR MORE INFO & APPLICATIONS: WWW.STARTUP.FIU.EDU/POC

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HOW IT WORKS

The Proof of Concept Studio will run continuously throughout the year, making it feasible for individuals to pivot their solutions and continue the program in future cohorts.

The pre-accelerator is designed to help you understand a methodology, apply it through hands-on real time exercises and engage in collaborative group activities.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- **Sprint** sessions are every Thursday from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at FIU MMC
- **Exclusive office hours** with mentors and industry experts every Friday from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Members will be expected to apply their learnings in between sprints, and present deliverables when scheduled
- The program is at no cost to you

The program will conclude with a **demo-day** where members will showcase their idea(s). By the end of the Proof of Concept Studio, members will have a prototype or be weeks away.

*The Proof of Concept Studio is open to the FIU and Miami community.*
Supporting Miami's food entrepreneurs to build and grow successful, long-lasting companies.
In partnership with the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, this program gives local food entrepreneurs access to commercial grade kitchen facilities, programmatic support and a network of industry professionals to learn how to successfully scale their companies.

**Commercial Kitchen**

- 3000 Square Foot Kitchen
- 6 Cooking Stations
- 4 Baking Stations
- 1 Frozen Dessert Stations

**Who Should Apply**

StartUP FIU FOOD is designed for business owners with aspirations of growth but with limited resources. Candidates must establish a commitment to scale their business and create jobs within their community.

**4 Program Requirements**

- Be an owner/co-owner of a business
- In operation for less than two years
- Have a business plan
- Minimum of two team members

Contact | startupfood@fiu.edu | (305) 919-4091