

7th Annual Deshpande Symposium for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education.  
June 11 - 13, 2018 @ UMass Lowell.



Innovation &  
Entrepreneurship in  
Higher Education

## Deshpande Symposium Awards Open! Nominate Your Institution, Program or Campus Leader Today!

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is right around the corner! It's just 3 months to go until the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Deshpande Symposium kicks off in Lowell, MA. This year's Symposium promises to be bigger and better than ever!



Thanks so much to all those who submitted panel proposals over the last few months. We received an overflow of high quality submissions and are actively reviewing. Our goal is to release the program agenda (along with keynotes and workshops) within the next week or so. Stay tuned for more information!

We'd also like to remind everyone that the Deshpande Symposium Awards nomination period is now open. It's a great opportunity to recognize all the terrific I&E work taking place on your campuses. We invite you to submit nominations prior to the April 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. More information available at: <https://www.deshpandesymposium.org/awards/>.

And finally, registration for the Symposium will be open and available by Fri., March 16<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, there will be an early registration discount, so keep your eyes open for the deadline.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of the Deshpande Symposium! See you in June!

**Raj Melville**  
Deshpande Foundation  
Symposium Co-Chair

**Steve Tello**  
UMass Lowell  
Symposium Co-Chair

## Important Reminders



### Nominations for 7th Annual Deshpande Symposium Awards now OPEN!

Nominations for the 2018 Deshpande Symposium Awards are now being accepted on the Symposium website. Applications are due by **April 6th**. To submit your nomination go to, <http://www.deshpandesymposium.org/awards/>.

## Guest Commentary

### Project-Based Learning: Providing Students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Success Skills



*Rick Vaz, Director  
Center for Project-Based Learning  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Research shows that exposure to [high-impact educational practices](#) such as undergraduate research, capstone projects, community-based learning, and collaborative assignments – also known collectively as evidence-based practices – results in greater student learning gains than traditional instruction in areas that [matter most to employers](#). While many colleges and universities have pockets of activity in these practices, fewer institutions ensure that each student has these beneficial experiences. Systemic curricular reform proves difficult, especially for practices that bring faculty out of their comfort zones and raise concerns about resources and content coverage.

Project-based learning (PBL) is a powerful and flexible means to implement multiple high-impact practices. It can be employed in courses at a wide range of levels, in many disciplines, at institutions of all types. The most effective forms of PBL share a few common elements:

- Students are motivated by an authentic problem with real-world implications
- Faculty provide a level of structure suitable to students' level of experience
- Students work collaboratively, developing skills in teamwork and communication
- Faculty give formative feedback to guide revision and learning
- Students develop some artifact, performance, report, or other tangible outcome

In 2016, the [WPI Center for Project-Based Learning](#) was established with funding from the National Academy of Engineering's [Gordon Prize](#). Building on nearly 50 years of experience with WPI's project-based curriculum, the Center helps colleges and universities of all types advance project-based learning, both through an annual [Institute on Project-Based Learning](#) and [custom workshops](#) on other campuses.

To date, the Center has worked with nearly 90 colleges and universities of all types, including public and private research universities, community colleges, comprehensive institutions, liberal arts colleges, and technological universities. These partners have come from across the US plus Canada, India, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, and Turkey. Some are looking to integrate PBL in a particular degree program, others in a common experience such as a first-year seminar or senior capstone. Despite the wide range of institutional types and goals, we have found common elements in their work:

- “Early adopters” among the faculty who are eager to advance PBL for their students
- Questions about how to support and evaluate students in PBL team settings
- Interest in examples from different disciplines, including tools for scaffolding and evaluation
- Recognition that PBL involves a culture shift for both faculty and students, and benefits from faculty development and support

To tackle the world's challenges, our students will need to be innovative problem-solvers, skillful communicators, and collaborative leaders. Providing PBL experiences of increasing complexity at different points in the curriculum can help prepare all students for lives of professional impact and personal growth.

For more information about the WPI Center for Project-Based Learning, contact [cpbl@wpi.edu](mailto:cpbl@wpi.edu).

## Community Announcements



**LaunchNET**  
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Come visit us in our new space on the 2nd floor of the Kent State Library.

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www.kent.edu/LaunchNET

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The graphic features a central illustration of an open cardboard box overflowing with various icons representing technology, science, and education, such as a smartphone, a laptop, a lightbulb, a globe, a gear, a rocket, and a book. The background is a light blue gradient.

Visit LaunchNET in their new space on the 2nd floor of the Kent State Library.

<https://www.kent.edu/launchnet>

**VentureWell's OPEN Conference**  
**March 22-24, 2018**

## Austin, TX



Plan to join us for VentureWell's OPEN Conference, March 22-24, 2018 in Austin, Texas, a vibrant city with an active startup community. The annual two-day conference gathers faculty, administrators, and institutional change makers from across the I&E spectrum to share stories, start new collaborations, and learn emerging best practices in the rapidly evolving field of technology entrepreneurship education. The conference is called OPEN to reflect both the welcoming culture of our attendees and the way the conference connects people across disciplines and geographies to

grow entrepreneurship education.

OPEN 2018 will feature a wealth of informative sessions and time to network with a friendly and engaging group of colleagues committed to moving the field forward. Sessions will cover a wide range of subjects such as fostering creative thinking in the classroom, IP policy to spur innovation, and scaling innovations in resource-constrained environments.

Learn more about OPEN 2018 [here](#) . Register by December 1 to save 20%!

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## Canadian Council for SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CCSBE) May 3-5, 2018 Halifax, Nova Scotia



The **Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers (GCEC)** is the premier academic organization addressing the emerging topics of importance to the nation's university-based centers for entrepreneurship. With over 250 university members, it has become the vehicle by which the top, established entrepreneurship centers, as well as emerging centers, work together to share best practices, develop programs, and collaborate in advancing, strengthening, and celebrating the role of universities in teaching the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

The annual **GCEC Conference** is an opportunity to share information about your university's entrepreneurship programs and to gain exposure for your successful initiatives. It is also an opportunity to learn from the best practices at other universities and to network with entrepreneurship faculty, center directors, and entrepreneurship leaders from the top universities from around the world.

**Call for Papers, Workshop and Panel Session proposals due March 15th** . Submission information can be found [here](#) .

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**CEO-CICEP Joint Summer Meeting**  
**June 25-28, 2018**  
**Richmond, VA**



Join university economic development, innovation and community engagement leaders in Richmond, VA on June 25-28 for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Council on Engagement and Outreach (CEO) and Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity (CICEP) for the 2018 CEO-CICEP Joint Summer Meeting.

Focus on the theme, Creative Placemaking for Healthy Communities, the meeting will explore creative placemaking in action via university partnerships in the arts, health and innovation. Through presentations, interactive sessions, and field experiences, participants will gain new insights into how public research universities as key "anchor institutions" leverage innovative and interdisciplinary strategies to address complex social and economic challenges facing our communities. The 2018 Summer Meeting will also feature APLU's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Innovation & Economic Prosperity Universities workshop. Learn more and register: <http://bit.ly/2Di7dnR>

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