

Vanderbilt Innovation Ambassadors Program – Overview & Talking Points

- Program description:

The Innovation Ambassadors Program is an institutional initiative to provide Vanderbilt faculty with improved, peer-delivered access to information and assistance related to innovation and entrepreneurship on campus. The Program achieves this goal by recruiting a faculty Ambassador from each department to act as a liaison between researchers and innovation programs across campus. Ambassadors receive instruction on a variety of commercialization, intellectual property, and entrepreneurship topics, as well as application of Vanderbilt policies and procedures, all designed to enable them to help others in their departments obtain quick guidance and access to all their innovation and entrepreneurship needs.
- Number of participants:
 - 1 participant from each participating department or division
 - 2 year commitment to program, subject to extension
 - Number of hours committed per quarter:
 - Training hours (transient): 6
 - Participation hours (steady state): 5-10/quarter
- Program scope/activities:
 - Point of contact (front line) for department/divisions with respect to IP, innovation, IP and COI policy, commercialization and entrepreneurship activities
 - Quarterly summary reports to department at departmental meetings
 - Advocate for programs, funding, institutional commitments to innovation and entrepreneurship
 - Coordinate with other ambassadors (quarterly meetings) on goals and information exchange
 - Raise issues, concerns, complaints, questions to CTTC or Wond'ry (or leadership, as applicable)
 - Make recommendations to Vanderbilt (CTTC, Wond'ry, etc) about new program/resource needs
 - Assist in selection of annual Master Innovator and Master Entrepreneur recognition programs
 - Assist with selection of seminar series speakers
 - Early Ambassadors to refine program
- Requirements of participants:
 - Training on CTTC activities
 - Training on Wond'ry activities
 - Training on COI issues
 - Training on IP Policy issues
 - Attend ambassador meetings
 - Departmental presentations to update departments on innovation and entrepreneurship activities at Vanderbilt
- What is in it for the Ambassador
 - Ambassador fleece
 - Access to VU leadership and regional leadership – via presentations, etc (networking and education)
 - Access to regional entrepreneurship conferences