

EPIIC

El Pomar Institute
for Innovation & Commercialization

2022

Community

Update

A close-up photograph of a white marble lion sculpture, likely the mascot of the University of Central Florida. The lion's mouth is open, and a bright light source, possibly the sun, is shining through it, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a soft, hazy sky.

UCCS

Key Accomplishments

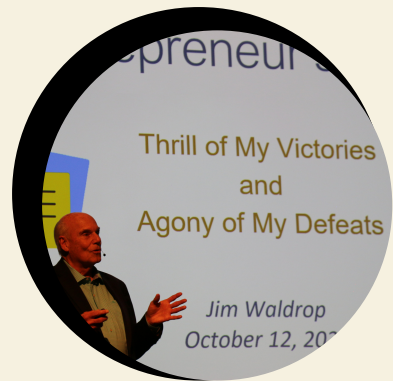


Hired Program & Outreach Admin

On February 1st EPIIC hired Luke Doster as the new Program & Outreach Administrator. Luke is a UCCS alumni with a B.S. in Marketing. During his time at UCCS Luke participated in a variety of EPIIC programs including The Garage at UCCS, and the Venture Attractor. He was thrilled to join the team that helped make his college experience truly impactful.

Awarded \$150,000 in Torch Grants

After successfully concluding the Venture Attractors 2022 Scale to \$1M Boot-Up Camp cohort, the ventures were eligible to pitch for a Torch Grant. After two separate judging rounds, the top 3 ventures were selected to receive a \$50,000 Torch Grant for their business.



Spark the Springs: Celebration

On October 12th we hosted our first EPIIC event since the shutdown of 2020. Celebrating entrepreneurship in Colorado Springs, Spark the Springs brought together a business-minded community. Sponsored by All Pro Capital and Goat Patch Brewing, we were able to celebrate what it means to be an entrepreneur in the face of hardship.

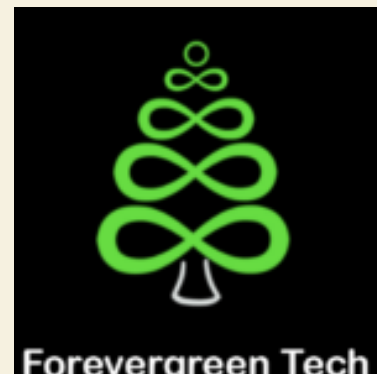
COS World Affairs Council- International Leaders visit The Garage





Venture Attractor™ at UCCS

Feb. 15th of 2022
marked the official
start of Venture
Attractors' second
cohort.



Scale to \$1M Boot-Up Camp

- 4 Month Program
- 16 Foundational Concepts
- Weekly Mentorship Meetings
- Monthly Progress Pitches
- Student Assistance Sprint
 - 12 Student Interns
 - 4 Professors Leading Groups



Venture Attractor companies that successfully complete the Boot-Up Camp are eligible to pitch for a Torch Grant



Torch Grants is an EPIIC initiative stimulating the COS economy via \$50K non-equity grants into early stage startups



May 31st

Completed the 2nd Venture Attractor Scale to \$1M Boot-Up Camp cohort.

June 8th

The first ever Torch Grants Pitch started with a virtual semi-final. Founders had 10 minutes to pitch, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A from the Judges. The judges then selected five ventures to move forward.



June 24th

The five finalists pitched live to the COS community in the Upper Lodge at UCCS. A new panel of judges then selected the three \$50K Torch Grant recipients.



SPARK the Springs

A TORCH GRANTS CELEBRATION

October 12th, 2022

After the two rounds of judging our Torch Grant recipients had been selected. To celebrate this moment we started planning our "main event" of 2022 in May. Spark the Springs was created with the intent of simultaneously announcing our recipients, showcasing the ventures we worked with, and creating excitement around entrepreneurship in Colorado Springs. The event was broken into three parts: networking/venture showcase, the main program, and ended with the announcement of the Torch Grant recipients. Together the recipients received **\$150K**, through three separate grants. The event went better than we could've hoped with **~200** people from all over COS and beyond coming out. We all had a blast, and the excitement around the Venture Attractor program was tangible.



- Luke Doster, EPIIC
Program Admin. -
(Top Left)

- Dr. Tom Duening,
EPIIC Co-Chair -
(Top Right)

- John Rubley, CEO of
Defender Imports -
(middle)

- Jett Johnson, CEO
of Leadfoot Racing -
(Bottom Right)

- Rafael De la Vega,
CEO of Salt Athletic -
(Bottom Left)

**Note: All Torch Grants recipients are UCCS alumni*



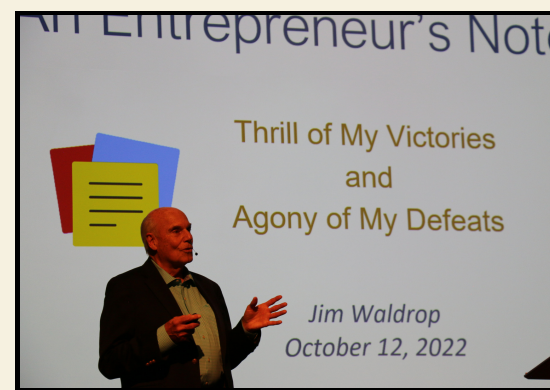
SPARK *the Springs*
A TORCH GRANTS CELEBRATION

The Main Event

Event Sponsor:



Beverages by:





The Recipients:



Importing and Restoring Classic
Land Rover Defenders.

Lead Foot Racing

Creating a consistent and safe
racing experience without
breaking the bank.



Creating anti-bacterial, anti-
odor gear to the highest
aesthetic standards.



Defender Imports

Founded by John Rubley



Lead Foot Racing

Founded by Jett Johnson

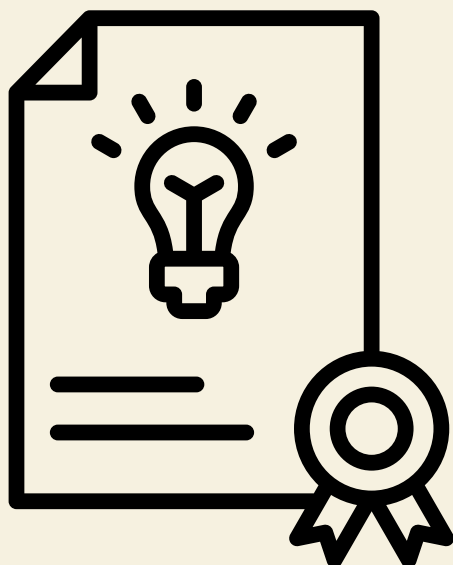


Salt Athletic

Founded by Rafael de La Vega

Dr. Terry Boulton

CU System



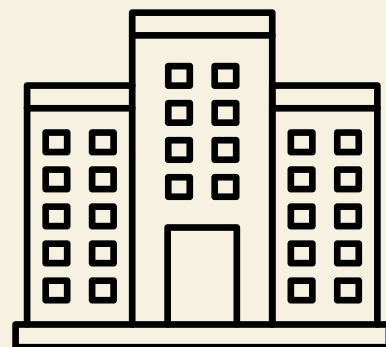
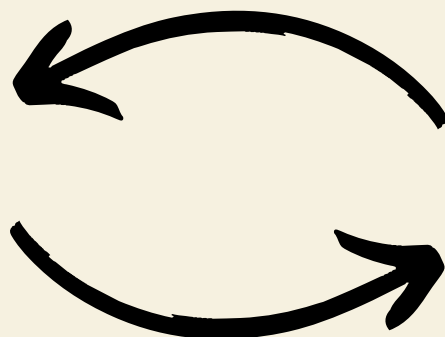
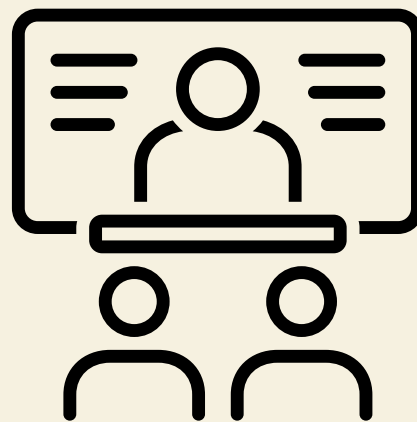
Finalized and was issued a CU-related pro-se patent

Collaborated with CU to file a new provisional patent

Began a licensing agreement for a previously awarded patent

Assisted four UCCS faculty members to create startups

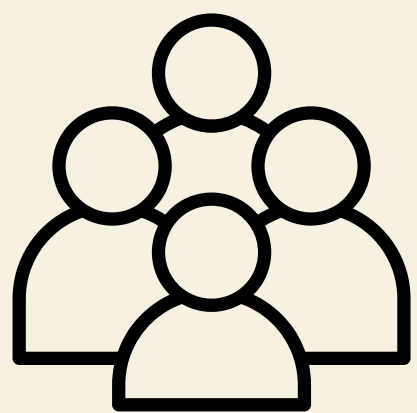
Helped organize a student pitch event, connecting the Bachelor of Innovation, EPIIC, and Exponential Impact



Dr. Terry Boulton

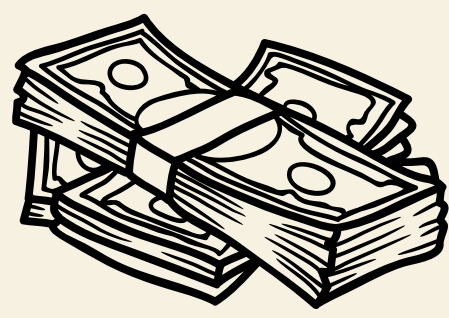
Community Impact

Helped drive R&D for 8 different companies & organizations



DARPA, DHS,
DOD/C4T&E, IARPA,
Nasa, and MDA

-resulting in-



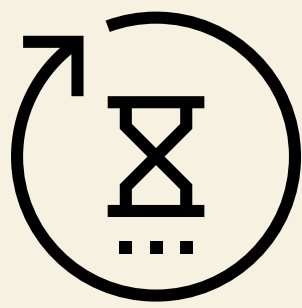
Over \$3 Million in Proposals and Contract Work

-with-

\$5.5 Million in proposals currently pending in the Department of Energy



These contracts brought almost \$1M into UCCS and over \$1M to their Partners



The

GARAGE

at UCCS

9

Spring 2022 Re-Launch



**REACHED
50+
STUDENTS**

**ENROLLED
7 NEW
VENTURES**

**ENDED SEMESTER
WITH
4 QUALITY VENTURES**

In February of '22 The Garage re-opened for the first time since 2020! Kicking off this new chapter we hosted a re-launch party, inviting students from across the campus to learn about our program. With only 10 spots available in the program, we were pleased to **enroll seven new ventures** as a result of the party.

The Garage students are asked to make continuous progress within their venture. Progress is measured on a monthly basis via a Progress Pitch. Students pitch their venture to a crowd, sharing achievements and frustrations from the previous month. This process helps teach students accountability while becoming comfortable and confident with sharing their ideas.

By the end of the semester, three ventures decided to drop out of The Garage for various reasons. Wishing them well we ended the '21-'22 school year with **four high-quality ventures** in tow.



COS World Affairs Council- Intl. Leaders

The
GARAGE
at UCCS

August

- Hosted the **COS World Affairs Council and 11 international business leaders.**

- The purpose of the visit was to learn how the university supports entrepreneurship for students and the surrounding community.



Ethan Thompson founder of Forevergreen Tech at the Social Impact Pitch Night

Fall Semester

- Held another Garage open house resulting in **4 new ventures** joining us.
- In addition to the monthly Progress Pitch, our **new mentor**, Gail Richards helped organize "workshops" for our Ventures.
- Three of the Ventures competed in the **Social Impact Pitch Night** hosted by the College of Business and the National Institute for Social Impact. All three walked away with prizes totaling **\$5,000!**



Alicia Martinez founder of Spark: Nature & Therapy at the Social Impact Pitch Night

Ended Fall Semester '22 with 7 ventures enrolled for Spring '23



Uniquely themed rental properties



Crowdsourcing
environmental cleanup



Combining nature and
therapy in new ways



Digital closet/stylist for
sneaker enthusiasts



Eliminating the odors
caused by athletic gear



Helping golfers improve their
game



Turning trash into building materials



Dr. Terry Boulton

Dr. Boulton is the El Pomar Endowed Chair of Innovation and Security and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Dr. Boulton is also the founder of the Bachelor of Innovation degree program at UCCS.



Dr. Tom Duening

Dr. Thomas Duening is the El Pomar Chair for Business & Entrepreneurship, associate professor of management, and director of the Center for Entrepreneurship. Dr. Duening has also written more than 17 books on business and entrepreneurship.



Carrie Olson

Carrie Olson has been with the Colorado University system since 2012. Starting on the CU Boulder Campus before transferring to UCCS; Carrie has extensive experience managing department finances, navigating the CU system, and organizing events.



Luke Doster

Luke Doster is an entrepreneur at heart. Founding and working within five different startups ranging from EduTech to virtual reality. Luke manages the day-to-day operations of EPIIC, helping to achieve EPIICs mission.