

2018-2019 Innovation of the Year Application

Final applications must be submitted [online](#).

Principal Applicant

- 1) First Name: Gabriela
- 2) Last Name: Cojanu
- 3) Project Title: Student Small Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Seed money
- 4) College: Glendale Community College
- 5) Phone: 206 595 4741
- 6) Email: gabriela.cojanu@gccaz.edu

Team Members and Photograph

- 7) Team members – List the team members involved in this project, including yourself. Provide name, job title, and email for each. One person per line.

Gabriela Cojanu, Business Residential Faculty, gabriela.cojanu@gccaz.edu

Kendra Swensen, Business Residential Faculty, kendra.swensen@gccaz.edu

Gary Marrer, Business and Information Technology Department Chair, gary.marrer@gccaz.edu

Please Upload Team Photo

- 8) A team photograph including all members must accompany this application. Photograph must be 5"x7" and 300dpi or larger.
- 9) Create a caption for this photograph Identifying team members (using full names and college) in order of appearance from left to right

Executive Summary

Please provide an executive summary (50 words or less)

Students across GCC can participate in a 5-week course on how to turn their venture idea into reality. At the end of the course, students will showcase their venture in a project expo and participate in a pitch competition. The top three winners will receive seed funding for their idea.

Strategic Commitments

10) Select the MCCC CD Strategic Commitment best aligned to the project.

Build a Thriving Community Through Access and Student Success

Be a Driving Force for Economic and Workforce Development in Arizona

Attain Recognition as an Innovator Among Institutions of Higher Education

11) Explain how the project demonstrates the selected MCCC CD Strategic Commitment.

Build a Thriving Community Through Access and Student Success

Awarding student entrepreneurs seed money to start their business contributes to their success in business and in life. Students receive validation for their potential as a business owner and confidence to take the next step in the entrepreneurship process.

Be a Driving Force for Economic and Workforce Development in Arizona

By supporting student entrepreneurs to implement their business idea, we are also supporting them to create jobs and increase economic development in the community.

Attain Recognition as an Innovator Among Institutions of Higher Education

Start-up accelerators and student entrepreneurship support from community colleges is growing but it is still in incipient stages. Securing this funding for student's ventures will grow the interest in coming at GCC and obtaining certificate programs in the career and technical education such as small business and entrepreneurship certificates. This will enhance GCC's reputation as an innovator among institutions, students and the community. If a study will be conducted, publishing the results in higher education publications and disseminating the insights through higher education academic events will increase GCC's reputation among community colleges and the overall academic community.

Quality: It is evident that the innovation increases "quality" in the course, program, office, or institution.

The innovation increases education quality through the direct link to students' success during school and beyond graduation. The students who participated in the Poder entrepreneurship program reported increased understanding of entrepreneurship and business start-up, confidence to implement their idea and increased social capital from meeting faculty, mentors, potential investors and fellow students who share the same interest.

12) Efficiency: There is evidence that the innovation contributes to a more efficient way of doing things.

Funding this program for GCC students increases the efficiency by having GCC directly control the program resources and outcomes.

- 13) Cost effectiveness: There is evidence that the innovation adds a value to the institution while at the same time containing or reducing costs.

Supporting student entrepreneurs adds value to the institution through increasing enrollment, reputation and attracting suitable grants and donations.

- 14) Replication: The innovation selected can be replicated in other institutions with a minimum of difficulty.

A total of 5 colleges offered the 5-week entrepreneurship Poder program and the current proposal can easily be duplicated at all ten colleges. In fact, MCCCCD could even run a project showcase and pitching competition across all colleges. This will attract more students, more publicity and more fundraising and partnership opportunities.

- 15) Creativity: The innovation should be as original as possible or the adaptation should be creative.

The proposed adaptation of the Poder entrepreneurship program includes a project expo from all participating students. This is an excellent opportunity to bring the business community, alumni, family and friends and potential investors or donors on campus for this event.

- 16) Timeliness: The innovation should not be more than five years old in the institution, but it must have been around long enough to be tested so that it meets most of the criteria.

The similar Poder entrepreneurship program which ran at GCC for the last 3 years and was sponsored by ASU in collaboration with Silicon Valley Foundation,

- 17) Learning: The results of the innovation have been shared with others for the benefit of students throughout Maricopa.

The Poder program was a resounding success based on student and instructor feedback. ASU is compiling the study data and will publish the results.

- 18) Collaboration: The innovation successfully demonstrates collaboration, teamwork, and cooperation to ensure continuous process improvement efforts on behalf of students throughout Maricopa.

The proposed entrepreneurship course will be available to all students in GCC. If implemented across colleges, students can pick convenient locations and times thus increasing participation and outcomes. This entails collaboration among colleges for developing and implementing a cohesive student entrepreneurship extra-curricular course.