



VENTURE CENTER LAMAR UNIVERSITY

September 2026 | ISSUE 10

THE VENTURE CENTER RUNDOWN



Welcome our New Venture Fellows!



Welcome Jyothi Chollangi and Hayden Holder to the Venture Center team as this Fall's Venture Fellows.

The Venture Fellows are student workers who spend their time helping us build out the Venture Center so that we can better serve Lamar students, faculty, and the broader Southeast Texas Community.

The Entrepreneurship Club has launched!!!

We had our first meeting on Monday, 9/28. It was a great info session to build membership. This club is open to undergraduate and graduate students at Lamar University.

Contact: [Manny Ogden](#) or [Hayden Holder](#) for more information.

Join the GroupMe [here](#) and follow the Entrepreneurship Club on [Instagram](#) for updates on future meetings and events.



Cardinal Ideas Pitch

Cardinal Ideas is our annual fall pitch competition in which students, as teams or individuals, pitch their business ideas. This is a chance for student entrepreneurs to showcase their talent and compete for cash prizes.

Submit an application [here](#), deadline to apply is Friday, October 23, 2026.

We need your help to make this the best Cardinal Ideas Pitch to date.

What we need:

- Sponsors
- Mentors
- Judges

If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out. There are a lot of ways to contribute and support our students. **kscott74@lamar.edu**

Annual Pitch competition



Have an idea for a business innovation?
Pitch to investors for award money!

One Event... Two Competitions:

- Pitch to a panel of judges for a chance at \$5,000
- Enter the audience choice competition for a chance at \$500

link to apply in our
bio or sign up here:



Join us on Nov 12

1pm-5pm

**Room 113, Dade Phelan (CICE)
Building**

Applications due Oct 23 at 5pm

We've joined STRIVE!

STRIVE (Startup Training Resources to Inspire Veteran Entrepreneurship) is a consortium of universities that works through colleges and nonprofit organizations to deliver entrepreneurship education in the communities where veterans and military families live.

The Venture Center is currently working on the curriculum, training and program support to offer a Veterans Entrepreneurship Program to SETX. Stay tuned for more information on this later!

STRIVE is led by Syracuse University's D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATOR



THE PROGRAM:

- Start with an idea, end by pitching your business to investors and lenders.
- One-on-one mentorship
- 6-week, cohort based sessions

THE SESSIONS:

- Wk 1: Ideation
- Wk 2: Idea Validation & Prototype
- Wk 3: Customer Discovery & Market Research
- Wk 4: Go-To-Market Strategy
- Wk 5: Make the Money Work: Finance & Accounting
- Wk 6: Pitch & Launch

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- Free of charge, for veterans and military families
- Meet investors and other successful entrepreneurs
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship from the Venture Center
- Peer-group support: work within a cohort of other veteran-entrepreneurs
- Post-program support: Participants are free to continue working with the Venture Center, their mentors, and the Small Business Development Center
- Partner with other organizations serving veterans



**For more info, contact Kyle Scott, Exec.
Director at the LU Venture Center at
kscott74@lamar.edu or (409)880-2328**



Collaboration Alert:

Two teams led by Dr. Kelley Bradley and Dr. Helen Lou have been selected for the Texas State BobCatalyst Innovation Accelerator Program (BIAP). This marks an important collaboration between Lamar University and Texas State University that will help incubate and scale faculty-led ventures.



BobCatalyst gives the teams a chance to work with colleagues in the program while speaking directly with prospective customers about the problems their technologies aim to solve.

"Lamar is committed to helping faculty and students discover the commercial potential of their research and to fostering collaboration with universities across the state," said Dr. Gene Theodori, Associate Provost for Academic and Research Administration at Lamar. "Our participation in BobCatalyst is another important step toward fulfilling that commitment."

Dr. Kyle Scott, the Venture Center executive director and Rogers Chair of entrepreneurship at Lamar, is supporting both teams through the program.



The Venture Center has joined NACCE

The Venture Center has received a \$5,000 grant from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) through its Everyday Entrepreneur Program. The funds will provide the first-place award at the Cardinal Ideas Pitch Competition on Thursday, November 12.

The grant is part of Level One of NACCE's Everyday Entrepreneur Program, which supports entrepreneurship education and student pitch competitions. Through the partnership, the Venture Center will also have access to curriculum resources, mentoring tools and a network of participating institutions. Although NACCE's name reflects its roots in community colleges, its network and programs also include four-year universities.

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship is a nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurship education and economic opportunity through a network of colleges, universities and partners.



**Everyday
Entrepreneur**
PROGRAM + FUND

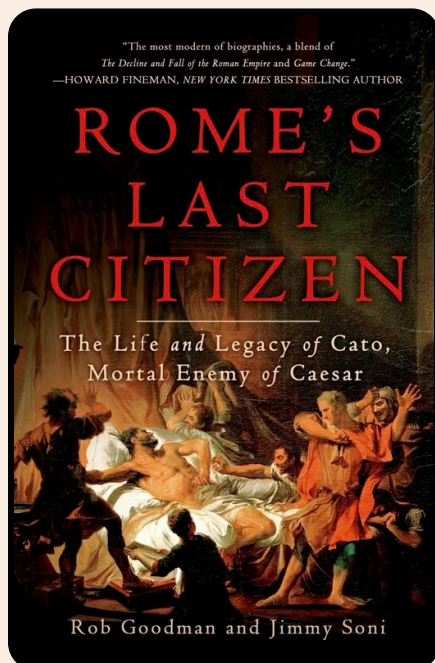
NACCE
THE IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Curious about how to write a business plan?



Check out [this resource](#) from the SBDC.

Book of the Month

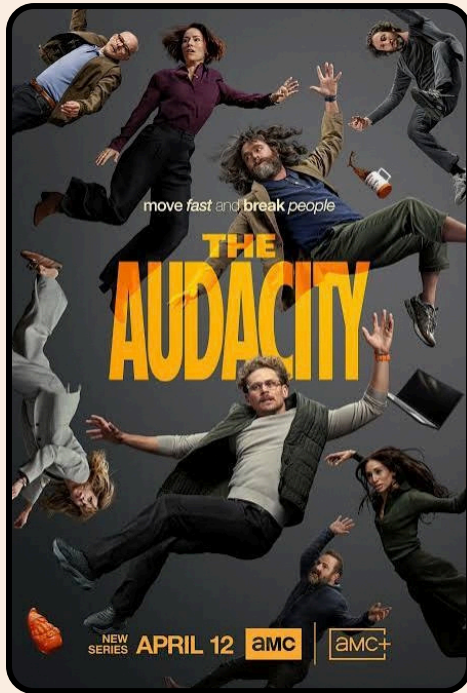


Rome's Last Citizen: The Life and Legacy of Cato by Rob Goodman and Jimmy Soni

Take a break from current events and return to Rome. A really lively read about the behind the scenes maneuvering at the end of the Roman Republic.

[Get the Book](#)

What we're watching:



The Audacity

A satirical (if not realistic) account of Silicon Valley. A can't miss.

[Watch The Audacity.](#)

Contact us to get started!!



Executive Director of Entrepreneurship

Kyle Scott

kscott74@lamar.edu

Come Build with Us!!

Coworking Space | Mentorship | Idea Incubation | Access to Funding | Individual Offices | Workshops
| Pitch Competitions

To learn more and keep up with everything that's going on at the Venture Center.



[Venture Center](#)

**5091 Rolfe Christopher Dr
Beaumont, Texas 77710**