



## Performance Progress Report

<b>Grantee:</b>	University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez Campus
<b>Project Title:</b>	Business & Economic University Center (University Center)
<b>Project Number:</b>	EDI6PHI3030073
<b>Period covered by the report:</b>	04/01/2017- 08/31/2017
<b>Reporting period end date:</b>	08/31/2017
<b>Report Prepared by:</b>	Dr. José I. Vega Torres

### Narrative:

Work to implement all tasks of our scope of work was completed and job creation, retention, and investment goals were achieved. Three main drivers of our efforts during the current year were an ecosystem approach, the leveraging of resources for long term sustainability and encouraging student driven initiatives. As a result, we are currently an important pipeline of prospects of start-up or e-teams for our partners such as Grupo Guayacán, Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT), Venture Well and the Puerto Rico Techno Economic Corridor (PRTEC) through the Starting Point Component. With PRTEC we established the UPRM's Start-Up Lab student enterprise accelerator. On the other hand, we are working with several very promising technology transfer cases by co-founding the UPRM's Office of Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer within the School of Engineering through the Pivoting Boost Component. Also, numerous interns have been placed to boost competitiveness of several existing enterprises and encourage ecosystem building efforts. In the Ecosystem Building Component major events were held. As a result, the UPRM's E-ship Network has been strengthened and the foundation to build a national support network, Colmena 66, driven by the PRSTRT, a major strategic partner, is well underway. As complement to this network, we already have engaged a pool of faculty fellows and doers mentors to assist innovators teams that surpassed our goals for this year. Also, working with our partners in the Bayamon campus, a model to deliver technical assistance by means of placing capstone students as interns in existing businesses is being tested and an innovation initiative for developing to promote tech transfer is underway with our partners in the Rio Piedras Campus. Lastly, with respect to the Social Innovation component we are have in place with our partners, a model to make self-sustainable our virtual mentoring efforts and the placing of interns in service learning apprenticeships.

### Activity Summary:

Activity	Task	Benefits/Outcome/Impacts	Milestone Date
1. Starting Point Component	Support to Start ups including tenants in the UPRM Start-up Lab and Coaching for Business Competitions.	 <p>Ten new start-ups, including five housed in the UPRM Start-up Lab accelerator, were established.</p> <p>Six teams participated in the New Venture Design Experience 2016-17 cohort. Two teams participated in the Icorps PR fall 2016 cohort.</p> 	August 31, 2017

**2. Pivoting Boost Component**

Assistance to innovative businesses through one on one counseling, innovation Internships, technology transfer assistance, and business valuation services.

Six students coached by faculty and doers mentors were placed in innovation internships, mostly in technology driven ventures. Partnerships with the Internship/Coop Program of the Business School and Paralell 18 Program are in place. Six teams applied for Jump Chile international competition.



## Internships Enterprises



Ten innovator teams received individualized technology transfer assistance necessary for early stage financing proposals such as SBIR and PRSTT grants. Assistance included technology assessment, commercialization plans, and business valuation, among others, delivered through one on one or virtual mentorship.



August 31, 201

**3. Ecosystem Builder Component**

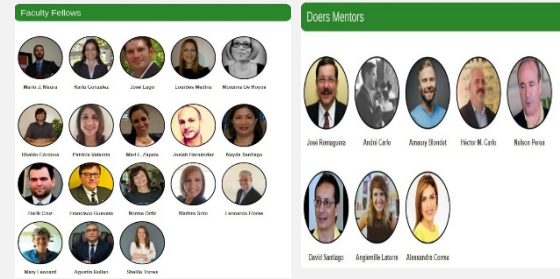
Entrepreneurial Agenda Events/ I&E seminar series  
 Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows  
 Doers Mentors Network



Nine Entrepreneurial Agenda events or I&E seminar series were held for ecosystem building with partners such as Idea Platform, Echar Pa'lante Alliance, the Doers Mentors Network, among others.



Twenty six collaborators are active either as “Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows” and the “Doers Mentors Network”. These experts are available to assist innovators teams and ecosystem events and activities.



Three complementary networks are now in place to serve as innovation support ecosystems, to give visibility to the efforts and attract partners and resources. Four new innovation fellows to champion student driven initiatives were selected by Epicenter and Venture Well.



August 31, 201

**4. Social Innovation Hub**

Virtual mentorship support and Service Learning Apprenticeships in Social Enterprises



Social innovators from around the Island completed the on-line Professional Certification of “How to successfully write project proposals” as part of the access to capacity building opportunities through web based formats This effort is being continued and expanded to other topics. The model being implement of delivering this virtual assistance is financially self-sustainable. Over ten students from the UPRM in experiential learning apprenticeships either through internships or project base learning assignments delivered Individualized assistance to social enterprises.

August 31,201

**Timeline:**

All programmatic goals were completed by the end of the grant period. Final financial reporting is pending and some activities corresponding to the UPR Rio Piedras sub award were still on progress when the year ended. We expect to comply with reporting as soon as the situation after Maria normalizes. After consultation with our partners (internal and external) and supporters within the UPR leadership we included in the new grant a focus on the most promising prospects from the university community and their collaborators. The objective is to generate the best qualified prospects for the various downstream programs of our partners and maximize short and medium term impact.

**Challenges and Mitigation:**

The recession that started in 2006 continues without signals of economic recovery. Outmigration is at its highest in our history and the population is starting to lose hope as pension funds collapse, lifetime savings and investments lose value or simply are consumed. New employment opportunities are scarce and the retention of existing jobs to preclude further deterioration of the situation is as important as creating new ones. State government failed to make payments to bondholders and it is, since last year, under the supervision of a fiscal oversight board named by US Congress. The Board instructed the elected Governor in November 2016 and he, in turn, instructed the UPR leadership that it must reduce its budget by more than half by 2025 amounting to \$512 MM in cuts which for UPRM are estimated in \$15MM or 10% less for 2017-18. As expected, the feasibility of this scenario was challenged by many sectors including students that declared a general strike in opposition to the proposed cuts that lasted over a month. Nevertheless, the Center managed to complete its scope of work and achieved and surpass the goals for job creation and retention.

Indeed these are challenging times for everybody in Puerto Rico that have been complicated further by the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on September 2017. We are committed to contribute to the economic recovery efforts and help build a more resilient and growing economy. This commitment is shared by the UPR leadership. However, in order to mitigate the effect of these challenging conditions we will continue to strive to leverage existing resources through an ecosystem approach and try to build, where feasible, financially self-sustainable service delivery models.

**Next Steps:**

We expect are soliciting a no cost time extension to complete the pending financial reports or any activity in progress. Also, we are in conversations to collaborate in EDA efforts as part of the Hurricanes Irma and Maria economic recovery.

**Aggregate Metrics:**

<b>University Center Potential Economic Impact Metrics</b>	
<b>Jobs Created</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Jobs Retained</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$1,122,591</b>

**Client and Ecosystem Building Success Stories:**



In April 2017, Parknet and BrainHi were successfully selected as part of the fourth generation of Parallel 18 business accelerator.

In May 2017, the first highest aerostatic balloon in the world was inaugurated as part of a tourist project promoted by the municipality with the Center's assistance.



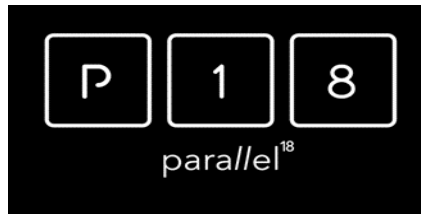
One of the cases from the Start-up Lab, Parknet, won the "Global Student Entrepreneurial Awards" and present their business idea in Frankfurt, Germany.



SpotIn, DoCare, Bici Comparte, Burnflex802 and Dollar Women Club, six of our startups have successfully completed the Jump Chile first step process and have been selected.



The UPRM E-Ship Network founded by the Center and its partners has been expanded with installations such as the UPRM Start Up Lab and the Starting Point Makers Space. The Center's outreach capabilities also have been expanded through the alliances with the Bayamon and Rio Piedras Campus. The aspiration of building a coherent national support ecosystem is being advanced through the alliance with the PRSTT to support the establishment of Colmena 66. The Center's director was invited to serve as member of the advisory board to this effort. Lastly, several promising models for delivering technical assistance with partners to start ups and existing businesses in a financially self-sustaining manner are being put into practice to test the best practices.



**EDA Assistance-Needed:**

A no cost time extension for the 2016-17 grant to complete the pending financial reporting and any activity still in progress. A special effort to assist in the economic recovery of the Island will be most also most welcomed.

**Press Engagements/Opportunities:**

Examples of some of the media coverage of the accomplishments of the Center's clients or partnering initiatives follows.

## Reconocen la labor del RUM en conferencia de innovación

El programa Pathways to Innovation del RUM recibió dos premios en Washington, D.C.



Desde la izquierda a derecha, los doctores Ubaldo Córdova, Mari Zapata y José Lugo luego de recibir los premios de Innovación en Currículo y de Compromiso Estudiantil. (Suministrado)

20 DE ABRIL DE 2017 POR DÍALOCO UPR

El programa Pathways to Innovation, de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR) en Mayagüez, fue reconocido tras recibir los premios de Innovación en Currículo y de Compromiso Estudiantil, otorgados durante la vigésima primera conferencia de innovación Venture Well Open 2017, que se celebró recientemente en Washington, D.C.

Desde su inicio en el 2015, la iniciativa, subvencionada por la Fundación Nacional de la Ciencia (NSF), permaneció firme en su misión de fortalecer un ecosistema de emprendimiento en el campus a través del currículo así como múltiples esfuerzos paralelos.

"Me siento sumamente orgullosa de haber sido reconocidos entre 51 universidades de Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico, tanto en el área de impacto curricular por el proyecto New Venture Design Experience (NVDE), liderado por el doctor José Lugo, de Ingeniería Mecánica (INME) y la doctora Mari Luz Zapata, de Administración de Empresas (ADEM), y el gran compromiso de los estudiantes con el movimiento de emprendimiento e innovación en la Universidad", comentó la colider del proyecto y catedrática de ADEM, la doctora Moraima de Hoyos, en el comunicado del Colegio.

### OPINIÓN

- La lucha contra las cen Peñuelas y nuestra cor histórica y ambiental
- Cuando la "democracia universitaria repugna
- ¿Qué no se apague el entusiasmo en la Univ de Puerto Rico?
- ¿Es posible superar el f



### LAS MÁS LEIDAS

- En moratoria algunos d en la UPR
- Cuando la "democracia universitaria repugna
- La lucha contra las cen Peñuelas y nuestra cor histórica y ambiental
- Estudiante de CROEM

## El RUM ofrecerá cursos en línea para redactar propuestas federales

Los interesados podrán aprender además a administrar entidades sin fines de lucro

Martes, 17 de marzo de 2017 - 9:56 AM Por EL SEÑOR DE LA LITRA

Nota de archivo. Este contenido fue publicado hace más de 90 días



Las certificaciones en línea son ofrecidas por el Colegio de Administración de Empresas del Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (RUM). (Archivo/UPR)

Las organizaciones sin fines de lucro pueden ser un aliado del gobierno y del sector privado para promover la recuperación económica de Puerto Rico, según ha reiterado el liderazgo empresarial y político en semanas recientes.



NUEVA JEEP COMPASS 2017

clasificados

NUEVA JEEP COMPASS 2017

Más en Negocios

## Estudiantes del RUM diversifican servicios para la comunidad sorda

Desarrollan oportunidades empresariales, sociales y de salud para esta población

domingo, 9 de julio de 2017 - 10:00 AM Por Marian Díaz



Desde la izquierda: Carolina Marrero, Talisha Glaz, la profesora Patricia Valerín, Alejandra Toledo y Abel Colón. (Jorge Ramírez Portela)

Mucho antes de que se presentara en ambos cuerpos legislativos el Proyecto del Senado 445, el cual busca hacer obligatorio la enseñanza de lenguaje de señas en las escuelas, los integrantes de la organización Enactus en el Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (RUM) ya trabajaban para proveerle a la comunidad sorda del área oeste oportunidades empresariales, sociales y de salud.

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