

INNOVATION SCHOLARS 2020 - 2021



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Director's Comments



Since the Innovation Scholar program began in the fall of 2016, we have worked diligently to cultivate and nurture a culture of innovation across the UC campus and throughout all programs at the university. Of course, we have experienced our share of growing pains as all new programs do. Each challenge has been met with a drive to not only course correct for the short term, but to apply lessons learned to achieve the best outcomes possible in the long term.

Over the course of the past four years, we have worked closely with each of the students in the program to create an experience like no other. In fact, every year we challenge our students and staff to find another program that offers undergraduates the level of experience and real-world practice they get as a UC Innovation Scholar. So far, we have not found one, nor do we hope to.

We often say if a student leaves this program the same person as when they entered it, we have failed. The level of responsibility we offer our students causes dramatic transformations to occur. We see incredible shifts in attitude and drive in every one of the students within weeks of starting the program. By the time they are juniors and seniors, they have multiple achievements to their credit. For example, of the students in the program during the 2019-20 academic year, a full two-thirds had participated in the advanced rounds of the WV Collegiate Business Plan Competition and the WV Innovation and Business Model Competition. Many of them see these successes within their first two years.

Innovation Scholars also get professional opportunities which are not commonly available to undergraduates. In 2019, a group of our scholars presented at the Association for Talent Development annual statewide conference and received rave reviews for their presentation titled, "A Case Study – Evaluating and Building Emotional Intelligence of Innovation Scholars while Emphasizing Organizational Performance by Focusing on Self-Efficacy and Heuristics through Executive Coaching".

We focus intensely on innovation, career development and skills training. We put new skills into immediate action so the Scholars are not merely armed with theory but rather ingrained with expertise that will serve them well throughout their careers.

This booklet provides an introduction to our current and incoming Innovation Scholars. We have also included individual achievements that captures the essence of what it means to be a UC Innovation Scholar.

Best regards,
David Ramsburg, MBA

Innovation Scholar President Comments

The University of Charleston's Innovation Scholars Program prides itself on defying the limits that constitute everyday society. We challenge ourselves each day to lead, learn, innovate, and work harder than the day before. This culture lies at the heart of everything we do and allows us to achieve groundbreaking accomplishments many would consider impossible at this stage in our lives.

Each one of our scholars went through an extensive interview process in order to be considered for this prestigious program and scholarship. When an individual is chosen as a Scholar, they began a journey that will change their lives. Our Scholars are given the opportunity to do things many could only dream of doing. We run the day to day operations of the University of Charleston's Russell and Martha Wehrle Innovation Center, give tours and presentations to the University's donors and VIP guests, speak at invited state conferences, obtain professional certifications, attend professional conferences across the nation, develop and teach workshops to the community and student body, study and practice the science of innovation, and much more. These things equip each one of us with the knowledge and experience needed to succeed in any environment.

Our Scholars are not only passionate about reaching new heights in our own personal and professional growth, but we take great pride in advising and mentoring new Scholars to achieve those same heights as well. That is why we are excited to announce we have more than doubled our numbers this year and added 13 new scholars to our team. This is the largest and most diverse class in the history of our program. This year's freshman class consist of promising students from 12 high schools across three states majoring in 9 different areas of study.

It is with great pride I introduce to you our entire team, the University of Charleston's Innovation Scholars. Or should I say the next generation of innovation leaders.

Sincerely,
Whitney Hunt

The 2020 Leadership Team:

President Whitney Hunt

Vice President Abigail Moore

Secretary Sarah Ball

Returning Scholars



Whitney Hunt (President)

Whitney graduated from James Monroe High School and is a third-year Innovation Scholar double majoring in political science and business administration. Whitney has served as the group's secretary, vice president, and is currently serving as president. She is responsible for leading 19 Innovation Scholars, overseeing the project work of five innovation teams, building and implementing a new internal scholar coaching program, revamping the Innovation Scholar website, managing the Innovation Center facility, and acts

as a liaison to maintain relationships with University donors, Board of Trustees, and VIPs by presenting the Innovation Scholar program. Whitney is an accomplished speaker and has spoken at the Association for Talent Development (ATD) State Conference. Earlier in the year Whitney received her Association of Talent and Development coaching certificate. Whitney is currently co-writing with Dr. Cyfers a peer reviewed article for publication about the development of the Innovation Scholars program to submit to the International Association of Innovation Professionals.

Abigail Moore (Vice-President)

Abigail graduated from Calvary Baptist Academy and is a second-year Innovation Scholar majoring in biology in the Pre-Physician Assistant program. In her first year at UC, Abigail presented at the Association for Talent Development state conference and later earned her ATD coaching certificate. Abigail has been the project lead for the Innovation Scholar's career development. She has given workshops and specialized instruction on LinkedIn, resume writing, and professional development. She closely works with the university's Director of Career Development to ensure Innovation Scholars take advantage of the many career opportunities at the University of Charleston. Abigail is currently studying for her Certified Professional Innovator certification. Abigail was recently accepted into the Physician Assistant Program at the University of Charleston.



Sarah Ball (Secretary)

Sarah graduated from Sissonville High School and is a third-year Innovation Scholar majoring in the Pre-Physician Assistant Program. This is Sarah's second year as the Innovation Scholar secretary. Sarah has been a true innovator. She advanced as a finalist in the West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan Competition twice where she received funding for her product Wireless Telemetry. In addition, Sarah also placed third in the West Virginia Business Model Competition and won an all-expense paid trip to Silicon Valley,

California. Sarah has led the Certified Professional Innovator certification effort. Lastly, Sarah has led the Innovation Scholar littleBits™ community outreach workshop which teaches disadvantaged children how to innovate.

Austin Davis

Austin graduated from Mingo Central High School and is a third-year Innovation Scholar majoring in biology, chemistry, and nursing. Austin also presented at the Association for Talent Development state conference. Austin has reached the finals of the West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan competition. Austin also organized our community innovation outreach in Williamson, WV at their community center which gave innovation exposure to children who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Finally, Austin serves as the Vice-President of Social Media for the Association of Talent Development.



Emily Thomas

Emily graduated from Saint Albans High School and is a second-year Innovation Scholar majoring in nursing and minoring in psychology. Emily is the Prototyping Manager and leads the 3D Printing efforts in the Innovation Center. Emily also is transitioning as the project leader of the Innovation Center's marketing efforts. Emily has been the face of the Innovation Center's effort for Innovation Day at the state capitol

building where she co-designed, staffed, and represented the University at our show space. Emily is the Innovation Labs project manager, a new program that brings innovation curriculum both virtually and in person to high schools throughout West Virginia.

Logan Bossert

Logan graduated from Gilmer County High School and is a second-year Innovation Scholar majoring in chemistry in the Pre-Pharmacy program. Logan has been assigned to lead the Innovation Scholar efforts for operations and process improvement. Logan is additionally responsible for delivering the "Meet the Scholars 2020-2021" informational collateral.



New Scholars



Seta Renee Ates

Seta is from Sacramento, California and graduated from Central High School (East campus) in Fresno, California. Seta is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in nursing. She chose UC because it is a small school with small classes, and it felt like home. While becoming an Innovation Scholar seemed like a long shot to her, she now looks forward for the chance to prove herself. After she graduates, she plans to become a travelling nurse.

Anna Byer

Anna is from Covington, Virginia and graduated from Covington High School. Anna is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in radiologic science. She chose UC because of her intended major and the many opportunities UC has to offer. Becoming an Innovation Scholar means a lot to Anna as she embraces the challenge and to learn and acquire new skills. After she graduates, she would like to work in a hospital close to her hometown.



Emily Gore

Emily is from Chapmanville, West Virginia and graduated from Chapmanville Regional High School. Emily is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in counseling psychology. She chose UC because she wanted to push herself academically and graduate sooner while staying close to home. She looks forward to seeing how becoming an Innovation Scholar helps her to achieve her full potential. After she graduates, she plans to earn a master's degree and begin working with PTSD and trauma victims near her

hometown.

Zachary Hall

Zachary is from Dunbar, West Virginia and graduated from South Charleston High School. He is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in psychology. He chose UC because it was close to home and has a small-town feeling that makes a perfect learning environment. Zachary feels becoming an Innovation Scholar will open new doors for him and makes him feel his hard work has paid off. He feels that becoming an Innovation Scholar is a wonderful opportunity for him and believes it will contribute to his post-



graduation success.



Lauren Hines

Lauren is from Chapmanville, West Virginia and graduated from Chapmanville Regional High School. She is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in psychology. She chose UC because of the welcoming administration and students, as well as the incredible atmosphere in West Virginia's capitol city. Lauren is very grateful and excited to become an Innovation Scholar and looks forward to participating in the affiliated activities and

opportunities. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school to become a forensic psychiatrist.

Eli Hughes

Eli is from Alum Creek, West Virginia and graduated from George Washington High School. He is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in digital marketing and business analytics. He chose UC because he was interested in the Innovation Scholars Program, but he also appreciates UC's passion in community involvement. As an Innovation Scholar, Eli is excited to have direct exposure to a strong network of entrepreneurs and business leaders. His overall goal is to use his time at UC to bring new types of Tourism to West Virginia.



Lucas Mullens

Lucas is from Summersville, WV and graduated from Nicholas County High School. He is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in history and political science. He chose UC because it is a beautiful campus and seemed to be a great fit for him. Becoming an Innovation Scholar gives Lucas the confidence to become successful at UC. After graduation, he plans to either start a career, or continue his education though he is not yet sure in what discipline.

Jacob Pinter

Jacob is from Pineville, West Virginia and graduated from Wyoming East High School. He is a first- year Innovation Scholar majoring in sports media. He chose UC because of the diversity and smaller campus atmosphere. Becoming an Innovation Scholar will give him a chance to meet great people and be challenged to leave his comfort zone. He hopes to work in sports media after his graduation from UC.

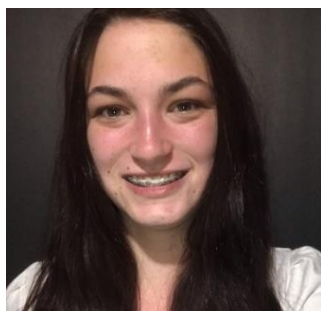
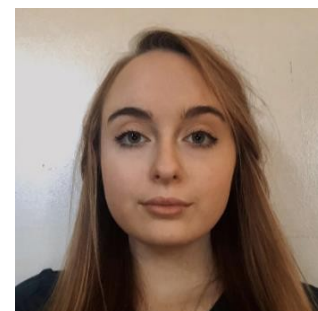


Aaron Rawlings

Aaron is from Cross Lanes, West Virginia and graduated from Cross Lanes Christian School. He is a first- year innovation scholar majoring in nursing. He chose UC because he has known about the school for a long time and many of his friends and family have spoken highly of their education. The opportunity to be an Innovation Scholar and the close proximity to home finalized his decision. He plans to take the experience and skills he gains during his time at UC and apply it to CRNA training in the United States Army.

Sydney Schliesser

Sydney is from Saint Albans, West Virginia and graduated from Teays Valley Christian School. She is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in pre-medicine biology. She chose UC because the education and opportunities it provides will allow her to succeed in her future career. Becoming an Innovation Scholar means a lot to Sydney as it allows her to change the greater community around her while also improving herself as a person. After graduation, she plans to become an ER physician.



Kiah Smith

Kiah is from Clendenin, West Virginia. She is a first- year Innovation Scholar majoring in nursing. She chose UC because of the small class sizes and opportunities offered within her major. The Innovation Scholarship gives Kiah a sense of pride and accomplishment. After graduation, she plans to work at a hospital in the pediatrics division. She also hopes to one day continue her education within the forensics field later in her career.

Kaylee Toler

Kaylee is from Ripley, West Virginia and graduated from Ripley High School. She is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in biology. She chose UC because of the great location and smaller population; she is the fourth generation of her family to attend UC. The Innovation scholarship is her way of helping others and spreading new ideas across campus. She looks forward to meeting her UC family. After graduation, she hopes to attend medical school to pursue a career in radiology.



Kaleb Wilkinson

Kaleb is from Charleston, West Virginia and graduated from Riverside High School. He is a first-year Innovation Scholar majoring in bio-chem in the Pre- Physician Assistant program. He chose UC because of the fast-track option for the PA program and the school's close proximity to home. Becoming an Innovation Scholar allows Kaleb to share his ideas with people who have a similar innovative mindset. After graduation, he plans to stay local and work in many different areas of the medical field and gain a wide range of firsthand experience.

Assistant Director Comments



We have intentionally created a program that stays true to our University's mission "to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement." We believe in order to carry out our mission statement we must ensure the next generation of innovators are created and prepared to compete. It is through innovation we see new value and positive change take place. We teach our Innovation Scholars the science and discipline of innovation, thus allowing them to become the change they want to see in the world.

We place our Innovation Scholars in real world situations, we give them real opportunity to become better innovators, leaders, team members, and project managers. We believe our programing prepares them for what they will see once they graduate. We continue to think big and stretch ourselves. We will continue many of the initiatives we have started and have added a few new ones as well. I would like to take the time to share with you our new upcoming initiatives for the 2020-2021 year.

Innovation Labs – Innovation Labs is an initiative that brings innovation curriculum to high school students. Our plan is to build and beta test with two local high schools. Once we perfect the Innovation Labs model we are looking to scale throughout all high schools in the state, and perhaps beyond. We have had interest from members of the community, and they confirm this is an important needed initiative. Innovation Labs will be led by Emily Thomas.

Formal Internal Coaching – Studies have shown coaching has an extremely high rate of return and impact on those being coached. Universities across the nation have adopted coaching within their ranks. Dave and I have found no other activity we do that has more impact on the Innovation Scholars than coaching. We made the decision to formalize the coaching program for the Innovation Scholars. The coaching initiative will be led by Whitney Hunt and Abigail Moore. Both have received training and gained their coaching certificate from the Association of Talent Development.

Operational Improvement – We have grown the Innovation Scholar count from 9 to 19. We have doubled our capacity. With the new influx of Innovation Scholars, we realized our operations needed an overhaul. We will focus on operational efficiency and effectiveness. This initiative will be led by Logan Bossert.

Innovation Design Challenge – We are currently planning West Virginia's first statewide Innovation Design Challenge Competition for college students. This initiative will expand the need for innovation throughout the state allowing students to solve real world challenges. This initiative will be led by Whitney Hunt, Abigail Moore and Austin Davis.

Lastly, I want to say thank you for your generosity and support in helping us to build a better world.

Sincerely,
Dr. Terry Cyfers

Vice-President Comments

Becoming an Innovation Scholar has changed my life in many ways. Starting college was a big step in my journey and becoming an Innovation Scholar provided me with opportunities to get out of my comfort zone.

Throughout my freshman year I was offered many opportunities. I presented at a state conference, earned an ATD certification, and spoke to the Board of Trustees, University donors, and legislators. This was just the beginning of my journey at UC. Becoming an Innovation Scholar has given me the friends and wisdom to push innovation forward in West Virginia.

As I begin my sophomore year as Vice President, my main goal is to give everyone else the opportunities that have already been given to me. This has been an amazing year and one I know I could have only experienced as an Innovation Scholar. It has been an experience like no other. Thank you for your support of the program. It has made a difference in my life.

Sincerely,
Abigail Moore

Contact Us!

The Innovation Scholars are constantly working to expand their network and make connections nationwide, as well as continuing to search for new scholars to enhance their team. To work with the Innovation Scholars, apply for the Innovation Scholarship, or just reach out to them with questions, use the contact information provided below.

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University of Charleston Innovation Center
2300 MacCorkle Ave SE
Charleston, WV 25304

Call Us:



(304) 357-4757

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innovationscholars@ucwv.edu

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