

The Darrell S. Freeman Sr. Incubation and Innovation Center at Burrus Hall

November 30, 2022

FISK
UNIVERSITY



Latanya Channel



Metro Director of Economic Growth and Small Business Development

"Nashville lags behind other cities in meeting the needs of small businesses and entrepreneurs. Building and creating more spaces where folks can get the support needed to start, grow, and scale businesses is critical to creating an equitable city that can compete in the future."

Decosta Jenkins



Former President and CEO of Nashville Electric Service

"There is generational poverty in the black community. We must find ways to break that cycle. This entrepreneur center can be part of the solution."

Shana Berkeley & Marcia Smith



Executive Director and Director,
Corner to Corner

"This building is at Fisk, but it is not for Fisk. It is for us. The communal us. You, me and anyone wanting to turn their business dreams into a money making reality."

Brittany Cole



Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, Nashville Entrepreneur Center

"The EC is proud to continue our partnership with Fisk and provide dynamic advisory and mentorship support to students and entrepreneurs in our North Nashville community."

Brynn Plummer



Vice President and Director of Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion, Alliance Bernstein

“Successful entrepreneurial ecosystems require attracting, retaining, and cultivating talented people, and meaningful collaboration between universities, government and the private sector so that talent supply and demand are efficiently matched. And over time, successful entrepreneurial ecosystems become talent magnets and talent incubators.”

Holly Rachel & Lena Winfree



President and Vice President, Blacks in Technology - Nashville

“Research has shown that when low-income/underprivileged entrepreneurs participate in incubation programs, can grow 22% in revenue, and 15% in employment (within 6 months). What this means for Davidson County is that small business owners of all industries can access the programs and resources they need to scale - not just to build personal generational wealth, but to become job creators for their community.”

Patrick Johnson



Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer,
Recover-Health

"I believe making an investment in business ecosystems that provide minority entrepreneurs equitable access to resources and expertise will help remove barriers and obstacles that make it unnecessarily challenging to closing the wealth gap. That restorative effect, along with economic gains, would be a huge step forward for Nashville, both socially and economically."

Jens Frederiksen



Executive Vice President, Fisk University

“The programming of the Center will include workshops, hackathons, certification programs, financial literacy sessions, networking mixers, lectures, and leadership development. These sessions will not only be open to students and faculty, but to the community as a whole. We expect that we will be able to serve hundreds, if not thousands, of entrepreneurs and small business owners each year.”

Deputy Mayor Brenda Haywood



Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement
Office of the Mayor

“Collaborating to inspire, empower and enhance lives within and beyond a community through the impact of providing information, resources, education and access. Ultimately, our goal is to provide all the wealth building tools for current and future generations.”