

EPI.Center Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW

Name:	National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation (EPI.Center)
Purpose:	The EPI.Center is an education, research and outreach hub for the creation and sharing of innovation and entrepreneurship education resources among U.S. engineering schools.
Funding:	\$10 million grant from the National Science Foundation
EPI.Center Leadership:	Dr. Tina Seelig, Director Prof. Tom Byers, Principal Investigator Prof. Kathleen Eisenhardt, Principal Investigator Prof. Sheri Sheppard, Principal Investigator

CENTER FOCUS POINTS

- Create the next wave of American innovators and entrepreneurs who will build lasting economic growth and job creation.
- Provide offerings tailored to address the distinct innovation education issues across all engineering disciplines.
- Leverage an open platform to connect students and faculty across U.S. engineering schools to share the latest tools and insights related to entrepreneurship education.

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KEY LEADERSHIP

Tina Seelig – EPI.Center Director tseelig@stanford.edu

Tina Seelig is the Director of the EPI.Center, and also serves as the Executive Director of the Stanford Technology Ventures Program. At Stanford, Seelig teaches courses on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in the department of Management Science and Engineering, and within the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford. Seelig was awarded the 2009 Gordon Prize from the National Academy of Engineering, recognizing her as a national leader in engineering education. She also received the 2008 National Olympus Innovation Award, and the 2005 Stanford Tau Beta Pi Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Seelig has worked as a management consultant, as a multimedia producer and was the founder of a multimedia company. She has also written 15 popular science books and educational games. Her books include *The Epicurean Laboratory* and *Incredible Edible Science*, published by Scientific American; and a series of twelve games called *Games for Your Brain*, published by Chronicle Books. Her newest book, published by HarperCollins in 2009, is titled *What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20: A Crash Course on Making Your Place in the World*.

Tom Byers – Principal Investigator
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Tom Byers is Founder and Co-Director of the Stanford Technology Ventures Program. At Stanford since 1995 as an engineering professor, Byers focuses on technology and high-growth entrepreneurship education. He is the lead author of a popular textbook called *Technology Ventures: From Idea to Enterprise*, which is published by McGraw-Hill.

Byers is a past recipient of the prestigious Gordon Prize by the National Academy of Engineering in the USA and Stanford's Gores Award, the university's highest honor for excellence in teaching. Byers is a member of Harvard Business School's Global Advisors as well as several advisory boards for the World Economic Forum. He is also a visiting professor at the UAE's Higher Colleges of Technology. Byers was executive vice president and general manager of Symantec during its formation.

Kathleen Eisenhardt – Principal Investigator
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Kathleen Eisenhardt is the Stanford W. Ascherman M.D. Professor at Stanford University and Co-Director of the Stanford Technology Ventures Program. She is also a visiting faculty member within INSEAD's Entrepreneurship and Family Enterprise area. Professor Eisenhardt's work centers on strategy and organization, especially in technology-based companies and high-velocity industries.

Eisenhardt has worked extensively in both research and consulting with a variety of firms, ranging from telecommunications, Internet, software, computing, biotech, and semiconductor to agribusiness and solar power. She is a co-author of *Competing on the Edge: Strategy as Structured Chaos*, published by Harvard Business School Press, winner of the George R. Terry award for outstanding contribution to management thinking. Eisenhardt also has published in a variety of academic and management journals. She was recently named the most cited research author in the domain of strategy and organization studies in the past 25 years.

Sheri Sheppard – Principal Investigator
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Sheri Sheppard has been a Stanford Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the Design division since 1986. Her research focuses on weld fatigue and impact failures, fracture mechanics and applied finite element analysis. Sheppard is also co-director of the Center for Design Research in the School of Engineering.

Sheppard is a nationally recognized expert on engineering education. She led a three-year study of engineering education, "Educating Engineers," in the United States at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For the last decade, she has been the faculty adviser to the Mechanical Engineering Women's Group at Stanford, which holds an annual seminar series and a welcome program for all female engineers. In 2010, she received the Walter J. Gores Award, Stanford University's highest award for excellence in teaching.

Phil Weilerstein – National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance
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Phil Weilerstein is the Executive Director of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. Weilerstein began his career as an entrepreneur as a student at the University of Massachusetts. He and a team including his advisor launched a start-up biotech company, which ultimately went public. This experience, coupled with a lifelong passion for entrepreneurship, led to his work with the NCIIA.

Weilerstein's tenure at the NCIIA is marked by his skill for network-building and expert leverage of resources. He focuses on seeking out gifted educators and important contributors and putting them to work for the betterment of invention, innovation and entrepreneurship education in the U.S. and worldwide. As an entrepreneur in a not-for-profit organization, he has grown the NCIIA from a grassroots group of enthusiastic faculty to a nationally known and in-demand knowledge base and resource center. Weilerstein is a past-Chair of the Entrepreneurship Division of the American Society of Engineering Education.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION PROFILES

Stanford Technology Ventures Program (STVP)

The Stanford Technology Ventures Program is the entrepreneurship center at Stanford University's School of Engineering, hosted by the department of Management Science and Engineering. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, STVP is dedicated to accelerating technology entrepreneurship education and creating scholarly research on technology-based firms that provide new insights for students, scholars and entrepreneurs.

An example of STVP's outreach resources includes Stanford's Entrepreneurship Corner, offering over 2,000 free videos and podcasts featuring entrepreneurship and innovation thought leaders: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/>

National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA)

The NCIIA provides funding and support to help U.S. student innovators move their technology ideas from lab to market, creating ventures that produce positive social and environmental impacts. NCIIA helps universities build cultures of innovation and entrepreneurship by funding new programs and emerging ventures, training faculty and student innovators, and offering 2 million dollars of annual support for technology innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. In fiscal year (FY) 2011, its budget is about \$6.9 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives over 45,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 11,500 new funding awards. NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly.