



**Center for Innovation
& Entrepreneurship**

Empowering Innovators to Build Successful Companies

Powered By Harrisburg University



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Business Innovation Partnership Gives Students Hands-On App Development Experience

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Thanks to a unique partnership between the [Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#) (CIE) at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (HU) and the youth mentorship and advocacy organization, [Summer Search Philadelphia](#), HU students gained a wealth of hands-on experience in designing a prototype app that promotes the mentorship of students between the ages of 14 and 22.

The development of Summer Search Philadelphia’s “Mentor App” was made possible via a CIE Business Innovation Partnership, which creates opportunities for HU students to work on projects under the guidance of University Faculty, allowing for experiential learning and “real-world” application of learned skills.

The CIE Business Innovation Partnership empowers Summer Search Philadelphia and like-minded, forward-thinking organizations utilize and test a student-built prototype and, upon the project’s conclusion, retain developers to build the final model.

The Mentor App, which uses games to provide mentoring, resources, and outreach services to students in their respective communities, was conceived by Summer Search Philadelphia. Over the past two years, The Mentor App was brought to life through the hard work of four HU students under the direction and guidance of Interactive Media Professor, [Dr. Sa Liu](#), and Computer Science Instructor, [Mina Gabriel](#).

Students who participated in the project included seniors Kathy Ly and Mickey Lam; junior Benjamin Ayensu; and sophomore Wayne Edwards. In May, faculty and students delivered the prototype to Summer Search Philadelphia.

“From day one, Summer Search Philadelphia was excited to partner with Harrisburg University's committed faculty and students; the learning was deeply impactful and mutually beneficial,” said Summer Search Post-Secondary Director Dr. Gretchen Mielke. “There is no better education than real world application of what you are learning in the classroom; we look forward to our future collaboration.”

Corporate Business Innovation partners also benefit from new technology built at a minimal cost, all the while maintaining hands-on input throughout the project.

“Our partnership is a cost-effective way to provide a company with new technology,” said CIE Program Manager, Jamal Jones. “And the HU students have a chance to apply learned skills in the real world, giving them a true experiential learning opportunity.”

To learn more about the CIE's Corporate Business Innovation Partnership Program, visit the following [link](#). For more information about SSP, visit their website at this [link](#).

ABOUT THE CIE

The Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) works to empower innovators to build successful ventures, including Harrisburg University students and faculty, as well as entrepreneurs in the community. In addition, CIE offers opportunities for partners to invest in important scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and academic research.

ABOUT SUMMER SEARCH PHILADELPHIA

Summer Search Philadelphia, opened in 2006 as the fifth national Summer Search site. Summer Search Philadelphia leverages a personalized, 7-9 year critical mentoring program to address barriers to equity and prepare youth for college and career success. We partner with Philadelphia high schools, community-based organizations, summer outdoor adventure and college programs, internship and apprenticeship trainings to offer students a menu of transformative experiences.