



FastForward U

Year In Review

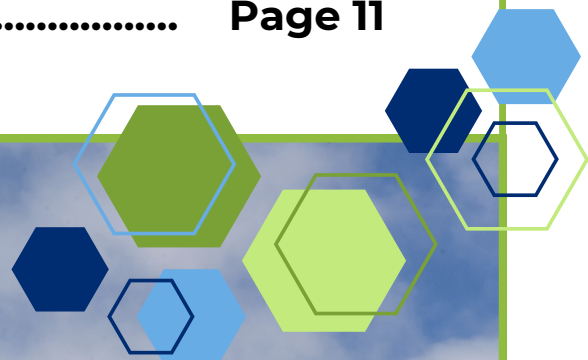
2023



Table of Contents



Director's Welcome.....	Page 1
Staff.....	Page 3
Accelerators.....	Page 4
Awards/Grants.....	Page 6
Campus Collaborations.....	Page 7
Baltimore Engagement.....	Page 8
Reach: Building.....	Page 9
Reach: Marketing & Communications....	Page 9
Highlights.....	Page 10
Contact Information.....	Page 11

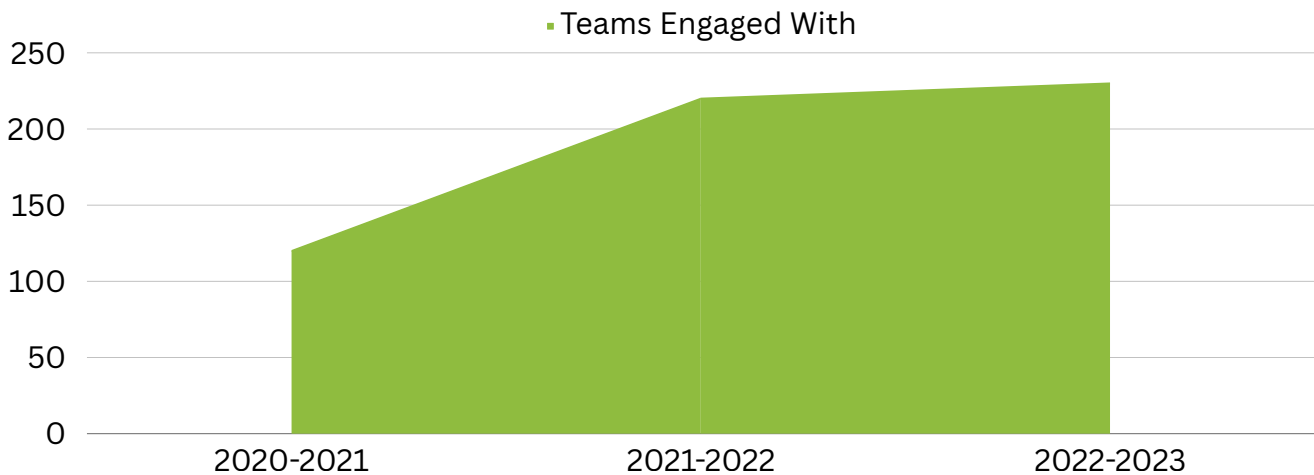


Welcome



This year, we interfaced with over 250 teams through FastForward U and the Social Innovation Lab (for more information, please see Social Innovation Lab's 2023 Year In Review Report). More than 100 went through accelerator programming and engaging with a robust rolodex of mentors. Through those accelerator programs and our additional competitive grant programs, we committed more than \$800k this year in direct, non-dilutive student grants, thanks to our generous alumni support! This included the third iteration of our prestigious Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge, and the exciting new six-figure President's Venture Fellowship.

All of these opportunities were promoted through a variety of special events and collaborations across campus, where we engaged students from all nine schools and collaborated with faculty, staff, and student groups at a higher level than ever before, from admissions events with prospective students to hackathons for all, from social gatherings to in-depth workshops with prestigious alumni.



Our building was busy, with around 2,000 people visiting around 6,000 times. We experienced robust engagement across social media, and a dramatic increase in our newsletter reach (over 7,000 subscribers with a 25% average open rate for the year).

And the work is paying off—our current and recent alums raised millions in outside funding—and even more importantly, earned millions in revenue! Their successes were highlighted in national and international press, and an increasing number are participating in local and national accelerators.





Welcome Continued

Throughout it all, our shared “north star” in the belief of Baltimore’s future as a startup city shone bright, as we engaged every month with stakeholders across campus and across the city. Those ecosystem efforts were joined in with all of our three new full-time staff members, who have stepped in, learned on the job, and helped us scale up impact across all our programming verticals.

We are going into our fifth year of programming, as FastForward U -- we feel like graduate students! We’re at a critical juncture point in our history, seeing unprecedented traction and progress, and incredibly excited for the good work that’s ahead.

Josh Ambrose

Director of Student Ventures
Johns Hopkins University

**JHU Magazine featured
FastForward U in their Summer
2023 issue.**



START ME UP

Johns Hopkins' FastForward U and a growing cadre of alumni help student entrepreneurs every step of the way—even if all they have is an idea.

Image courtesy of JHU Magazine.



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more!



Our Professional Staff Team



Josh Ambrose
Director of Student Ventures



Paul Davidson
Assistant Director of Student Ventures



Anthony Watters
Social Innovation Lab
Interim Director



Elena DeBold
Marketing & Operations
Coordinator



Sephora Saint-Armand
Student-Program Manager



Our Student Staff Team



Shreen



Suvin



Leana



Fayez



Paul



Sneha



Selena



Mahima



Bao Tran



Wesley



Lanre



Javier



Joseph



Abysinia



Connor

Accelerators



Over the last three years, annual applications to FastForward U accelerator programs have gone from 67 to nearly 200 as we scale up our "funnel" strategy.

Spark Accelerator

For early-stage teams, working on ideation and initial prototyping. Online, asynchronous curriculum and live "mastermind" huddles with staff and student interns.

- 42 teams completed in the fall
- 28 completed in the spring
- Nearly \$60k given away in stipends and prizes

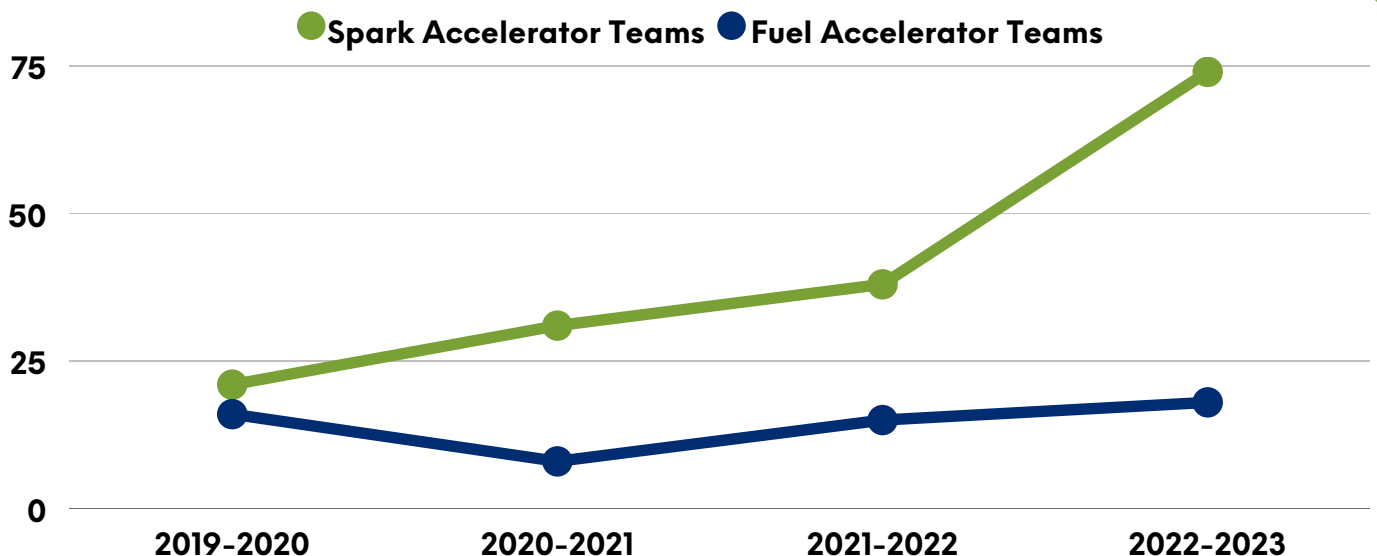


Scan to learn more!

Fuel Accelerator

For upper-level teams, focused on scaling up MVPs and expanding their network. Special speakers, student advisors, and much more.

- In-person in the fall, online in the spring
- 9 teams each semester
- Approximately \$130k given away in stipends and prizes





Accelerators Continued

Summer Incubator

Second year of our alumni-funded program to help students do a “deep dive” with their ventures via co-working, special speakers and workshops, and fun programming:

- 40+ applications
- 20 living together on campus
- Up to 10 additional participants joined for programming sessions
- Collaborations with Towson University (TU), University of Maryland (UMD), University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), and more
- Represents \$75k in direct support to students



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learn
more!**





Awards

All of our grants are non-dilutive and powered with the help of the philanthropic support of our generous donors.

Ignite Grant

- Over 45 applications received
- Prizes range from \$250-\$1,000, to help with a “simple, discrete task” to move a startup forward
- Nearly \$13k awarded to 22 ventures

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge



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Third iteration of our annual contest for advanced teams on campus, with prizes ranging from \$10k - \$30k

- 50+ teams entered
- 20+ alumni reviewers
- 20+ Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures staff interviews with finalists
- 10 teams won
- \$140k committed!



President’s Venture Fellowship

Inaugural cycle of the largest student entrepreneurship prize in the school’s history, funded by the President’s Office and alumni philanthropy.

- Represents \$280k in support for the coming year: \$100k to each venture and \$40k stipend to each lead
- Carey Business School is additionally providing each student lead a \$15k scholarship for the year, part-time MBA status, and the chance for discounted health insurance

Recipients:

- CurveAssure (Whiting School of Engineering), led by Evan Haas
- Aptabridge (School of Medicine), led by Taylor Cottle



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Campus Collaboration



Partnered with Whiting School of Engineering to facilitate a Q&A event with alum Jeff Raider, founder and CEO of Warby Parker and Harry's.

Sponsored prizes at the Center for Leadership Education's HopStart competition. 8 of 12 finalists were FastForward U affiliates.



Co-led and sponsored a prize at the Carey Student Venture Showcase. All 8 teams were FastForward U alums. Josh Ambrose served as a co-lead on the planning committee for the last two years.

Advisor for the student-run organization and sponsor of Nucleate Baltimore's Demo Day.



Cross-promoted and hosted multiple student-led hackathons in the fall.



Baltimore Engagement

- Regularly cross-promoted events, attended networking sessions, and explored new avenues to deepen our impact in Baltimore.
- Ecosystem partner engagement this year included (but not limited to):
 - Innov8MD
 - UpSurge and TechStars
 - Baltimore Entrepreneurship and Leadership Network (BELN)
 - Social Entrepreneur Alliance (SEA)
 - Baltimore Collegetown
 - Innovators of Progress
 - Green Street Academy
 - Carefirst Healthworx
 - Innovation Works
 - Associated Black Charities
 - And many more!



Highlights



FastForward U alum teams have raised ~\$170M since engaging with us.



Off-campus Pitch Competitions & Accelerators Engaged This Year:

- SomnOSA won at the Heartland Challenge Startup Competition.
- Tunnel got into the highly competitive Neo Accelerator.
- JJIM presented at the International Business Plan Competition at Singapore Management University.
- NovvaCup won the Johns Hopkins Technology Venture's Pitch it On competition.
- Alum team, Zenfetch, got into the highly competitive Y Combinator Accelerator.



Significant venture investments in Hubly, Ecomap, Relavo, ReBokeh, Tunnel, and more.

Noteworthy Milestones & Media Attention:

- TasteTape named one of *Time Magazine's* "Best Inventions of 2022."
- ReBokeh was profiled by the BBC, was a featured presenter at SXSW, and participated in TechStars.
- Hubly raised over \$3M in seed funding.
- CurveAssure won FastForward U's \$140K+ Presidential Venture Fellowship Award.
- Eyedea Medical received a \$1M SBIR II grant



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Reach



Building Statistics

Approximately **2,000** people visited our building almost **6,500** times this year.



Marketing and Communications

Newsletter:

- 25%** Open Rate
- 179%** Increase in subscribers

Website:

- #1** FastForward U's website is the most-visited subpage at Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures.
- #5** FastForward U's accelerator page is the fifth most popular page on the Johns Hopkins Technology Venture's website.

Social Media Notable Benchmarks:



FastForwardJHU

Facebook:

- 4%** Increase in total engagement
- 45%** Increase in post reach



@FastForward_U

Instagram:

- 28%** Increase in Instagram profile visits
- 10%** Increase in followers



@FastForward_U

Twitter:

- 7%** Increase in followers
- 206%** Increase in engagement rate



Scan to find FFU on social media.



Year In Review: 2023



FastForward U

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Scan to learn more
about FastForward U.

