

# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF THE DEAF ECOSYSTEM.



## About the Gallaudet Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute (GIEI)

The best entrepreneurs know that every challenge brings opportunity. Due to communication, language, and accessibility barriers, nearly 50% of deaf people are unemployed.<sup>1</sup> Yet because of these issues, deaf people are *more* likely than average to own their business.

GIEI is a place where Gallaudet students can dream, try, fail, and try again - the world's only incubator offered in American Sign Language and English.

By providing opportunities for experience and experimentation on campus, GIEI instills Gallaudet students with the entrepreneurial mindset they'll need in the workforce. We prepare students to excel as employees, teammates, and leaders, no matter their major or where they work.

Through contributions from Gallaudet University, private donors, and charitable foundations, GIEI provides an extensive range of programs for students, including:

- Mentorship opportunities**, pairing aspiring young entrepreneurs with experienced professionals.
- Incubation programming**, helping students turn business ideas into reality.
- Co-working spaces**, minimizing overhead expenses for start-up business ventures.
- Entrepreneurship education** through academic and non-academic platforms.
- Showcase competitions** like BisonTank, welcoming students to pitch a business plan and win a cash prize to fund their business idea.

## A Donation to GIEI Today, An Investment in Tomorrow

Our efforts are made possible thanks to Gallaudet's committed network of alumni, partners, and other generous community members like you.

To learn more or make a tax-deductible donation, contact:

**Russell Stein**, *Director of GIEI*

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## Your Donation Matters.

Every dollar donated to GIEI goes to fulfilling our mission. This includes funding programs, events, and activities for our rising entrepreneurs, as well as sustaining GIEI's core infrastructure over the long term. Make a donation today!

**\$25,000: Angel Investor**

**\$20,000: Program Champion**

**\$10,000: Startup Supporter**

**\$5,000: Innovator**

**\$2,500: Seed Supporter**



2017  
Clearmask  
founded

2018  
Won \$15k  
from GIEI

2021  
Clearmask  
earns  
over \$1M  
in revenue

Contribute to our  
next success story  
by making your  
donation today!

[www.gallaudet.edu/giei](http://www.gallaudet.edu/giei)

<sup>1</sup> K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability. (n.d.). Disability Statistics. Retrieved December 12, 2021, from <https://www.disabilitystatistics.org/>.