The People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship celebrated a banner year, highlighted by the opening of the Innovation Hub, a brand-new space for students all across campus to gather, share ideas and make their professional dreams come to life. There were plenty of other highlights, too, from our annual pitch competition with more than $12,000 in prize money to a new startup partnership with the Central European Institute and the premier business school in Poland, Kozminski University.

150
New Instagram followers for the CEI account

10,107
Organic impressions garnered by the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship on LinkedIn since June 2021. Out of these organic impressions 5,635 were unique.

50
Number of students participating in the Pop-Up Shops

220
Total Engagements
• Higher Education: 138
• Financial Services: 32
• Information Technology & Services: 14
• Sports: 9
• Business Supplies & Equipment: 9
• Management Counseling: 8
• Marketing & Advertising: 8
• Health & Wellness: 8
• Computer Software: 4
• Individual & Family Services: 4

1,321
Registrants for the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship events

1,101
Attendees for the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship events

34
New business ideas entered by students participating in the 2022 Pitch Competition

Learn More
qu.edu/innovation
TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT

The People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, under the leadership of director Patrice Luoma, a director and professor of entrepreneurship & strategy, is a nimble and full-service incubator for students, staff and faculty across all of Quinnipiac’s academic disciplines. The center offers advisory services and workshops in legal, finance, research, marketing, design, business plan development and startup mentoring for all types of innovative business, social, sustainable and artistic ventures. This past year, the center showcased student business pop-up shops, partnered with experts to learn about opportunities in the fast-growing cannabis industry and invited Wall Street veteran Scott Rosen to discuss how to confidently present to executives.

2021–22 Academic Year Faculty Innovation Fellows

Our 29 faculty innovation fellows represent all nine of the schools at Quinnipiac. The fellows promote entrepreneurship and innovation within their respective disciplines and schools to facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary innovations and impact creation.

October 21, 2021
Women Entrepreneurship Week Panel Discussion

The People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and the People’s United Center for Women & Business cohosted a panel discussion featuring Quinnipiac women student entrepreneurs who discussed various phases of their entrepreneurial journey and what it takes to be your own boss.

December 7, 2021
Student Business Pop-Up Shops

The student business pop-up shops on the Mount Carmel Campus provided an opportunity for Quinnipiac’s student-run businesses to showcase and sell their products.

December 9, 2021
The Cannabis Industry: Opportunities for Employment and Startups

Students joined Leah Bailey, chief business development officer for AUSA, a publicly traded, multi-state cannabis company, and John Volkmann, vice president of marketplace at Eaze Technologies, California’s largest cannabis delivery business, to discuss opportunities and startups within the cannabis industry.

February 10, 2022
Webinar with Scott Rosen on Presenting to Executives

From the conference floor to the boardroom, making a good presentation is an essential skill for any leader or entrepreneur. Students had the opportunity to learn from Wall Street veteran Scott Rosen as he shared well-practiced tips on handling stress, the fear of being the center of attention and how to communicate your ideas confidently under pressure.
WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“Thank you so much for all the hard work you put into the competition last night. The production was awesome, and I can say it was easily one of the best in-person competitions I’ve had the privilege of competing in. I couldn’t have asked for a better opportunity my senior year.”

—Michael A. Ulitsch ’21, MBA ’22

Dual-degree (3+1) BS in entrepreneurship and innovation/MBA

“I wanted to personally thank you for sharing your perspectives a few months ago during Quinnipiac’s virtual cannabis industry seminar. This semester, I have been interning at an indoor commercial hemp cultivator and am learning so much. This fantastic experience now has me pursuing a career in this industry, and I would not have had the courage and mindset to reach out to all these people without what I had learned from you during the seminar.”

—Cameron Wilson ’22

BS in entrepreneurship and innovation

April 29, 2022

Grand Opening of the New Innovation Hub

This was a highly successful launch of the Innovation Hub space and an introduction to the innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities across campus. Attendees included student pitch competition participants, faculty, staff, administrators, faculty fellows, alumni, business owners, and corporate and other partners. An introduction to the evolution and design of the Innovation Hub concept was presented by Provost Debra Liebowitz.

April 7, 2022

QU Pitch Competition

The People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition is always a highlight of the year. Students from all disciplines across campus present their business ideas and receive feedback. This year, the finalists presented to a panel of judges and collectively earned over $12,000 in prize money to further their business ideas. Finalists presented ideas pertaining to health and nutrition, campus car safety, boat rentals, a ski and snowboard platform, and hair care products.

March 31, 2022

An Evening of Magic & Entrepreneurship Featuring TJ Salta

TJ Salta ’22, MBA ’23, is an entrepreneurship major in the 3+1 program at Quinnipiac. Renowned for his passionate and charismatic style, Salta performs from New York to Los Angeles and has quickly become a rising talent. Salta was recently hired to perform as the close-up magician for Cirque du Soleil’s newest show, “Mad Apple,” in Las Vegas.

April June 2022

Startup Academy: Quinnipiac Partners with Kozminski University in Poland

This inaugural international student startup competition sponsored by the Central European Institute and the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship is an exciting experience that gives Quinnipiac students the opportunity to partner with students at Kozminski University, the premier business school in Poland. The QU-KU student teams will create and develop a business startup concept which they will present to a panel of international judges. The QU winning teams will travel to Poland in 2023 and the KU students will be at QU in September 2022.
The People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship is proud to align with Quinnipiac University's new Innovation Hub, an initiative that provides students with a uniquely collaborative and interdisciplinary opportunity by bringing together the university's innovation ecosystem. The People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship will continue to deliver robust programing. The Innovation Hub serves as a runway to the workplaces and jobs of tomorrow, a place where students work with their peers from different backgrounds and interests toward a common goal. These shared experiences and relationships will prepare our students to work with colleagues from multiple departments, divisions and locations — all across the world.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Patrice Luoma, PhD  
*Director for People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship*  
*Professor of Entrepreneurship & Strategy*

Hanna Hejmowski  
*Director of Operations for People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship*  
*Part-Time Faculty*

The People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship looks forward to partnering and collaborating with M&T Bank. The new name and plans will be announced in the fall of 2022.