



Innovation Center

2026 ANNUAL REPORT
(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

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WHAT WE DO

The Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) Innovation Center is Kalamazoo's premier hub for technology and life sciences innovation, providing the space, resources, and connections companies need to grow and succeed. The 69,000-square-foot facility offers wet and engineering laboratories, private offices, shared scientific equipment, and flexible coworking options to support companies at every stage of development. For entrepreneurs who are not yet ready for dedicated space, the Center provides educational programs, mentoring, networking opportunities, and workshops that help turn innovative ideas into viable businesses.

Since opening in 2003, the Innovation Center has been a cornerstone of the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem, supporting innovative companies while fostering collaboration, education, and economic growth. The Center hosts networking events, educational programs, and community meetings that bring entrepreneurs, business leaders, researchers, and community partners together. As home to the Kalamazoo SmartZone, a state-designated technology district, the Innovation Center also connects eligible high-tech companies with programs and resources designed to accelerate growth, including the Business Accelerator Fund, Emerging Technologies Fund, and Michigan Rise Pre-Seed Fund.

The Innovation Center's impact is strengthened through collaboration with a broad network of organizations that support entrepreneurs and growing businesses, including the Small Business Development Center, SCORE, WMU Starting Gate, the City of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo Small Business Support Hub, and many others. By bringing together expertise, resources, mentorship, and strategic connections, the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem creates an environment where promising ideas can develop into successful, sustainable companies.

In the pages that follow, you'll discover how the WMed Innovation Center is advancing innovation, supporting entrepreneurs, and strengthening Southwest Michigan's technology economy—one company, one partnership, and one success story at a time.

TOGETHER WE COMMERCIALIZE.



What Motivates Us



OUR TEAM



SANDRA COCHRANE, MBA, Assistant Dean for the Innovation Center. Sandra coordinates and oversees all activities at the Innovation Center in support of entrepreneurship and commercialization, including technology transfer for the medical school. Her work at WMed focuses on growing the Innovation Center into a hub for burgeoning life science, technology and engineering companies. She serves as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation's Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Program and serves as a panelist/judge for many entrepreneurial events across Michigan. A native of Ann Arbor, Sandra and her family have called Van Buren County home for over 20 years. In addition to holding a National Business Incubator Association's Certificate of Incubator Management, Sandra is a graduate of Michigan State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in English Education and a master's degree in business administration.



MADELYN PINDER, Business Services Manager. Madelyn has been with the Innovation Center since 2004. As Business Services Manager, she oversees day-to-day business activities, manages financial processes, and works to ensure that the Innovation Center is a positive environment for all. Madelyn previously served as Community and Investor Relations Specialist at Southwest Michigan First and participated in the original planning and build-out of the Innovation Center. She also gained development experience at Kalamazoo College and as Program Manager for a private foundation. Madelyn completed the National Business Incubator Association's Certificate of Incubator Management in 2010.



LANDON GRIZZLE, Scientific Equipment Coordinator. Landon joined the Innovation Center team in September 2023. His primary responsibility is to oversee all of the scientific equipment at the Center, keeping it in proper operating condition and recommending the addition of new equipment as needed. Prior to joining the Innovation Center, Landon was a Quality Operations Laboratory Technician at Pfizer. The knowledge of scientific equipment that he gained at Pfizer made him well-equipped to take on the role of Scientific Equipment Coordinator. Landon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University in 2021.



SARAH WOOSTER, Accounting Specialist. Sarah joined the WMed Innovation Center team in February 2025, bringing a diverse background in operations, customer service, and administrative support. She divides her time between the Innovation Center and the WMed Accounting Department, where she plays an important role in supporting both organizations. Prior to joining WMed, Sarah worked for Single Source Procurement—a former WMed Innovation Center client company—as well as Stewart Sutherland and Adhesive Templates. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, baking, exploring new culinary interests, and spending quality time with her family.

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“Thank you to the entire WMed Innovation Center team for fostering a collaborative environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. I appreciate the support you’ve provided throughout our journey.”

OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

The Innovation Center is fortunate to have the support of several organizations from across the state of Michigan. These partners and sponsors provide refreshments and snacks for events, content for educational workshops and seminars, and free and reduced cost services to the clients of the Innovation Center. Partners and sponsors enrich our entrepreneurial community.



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

We offer many events, both in-person and virtually, to serve our clients and other entrepreneurs across the state of Michigan.

- **KALAMAZOO VENTURE TUESDAY**
- **MONTHLY CLIENT LUNCHEES**
- **NUMEROUS WORKSHOPS**, including SBIR/STTR grant preparation, Running Your Business for a Successful Exit, 1 Million Cups Kalamazoo, and Market Validation Boot Camp
- **VARIOUS COMMUNITY VISITS AND TOURS**, such as Global Ties Kalamazoo



A virtual meeting of Kalamazoo Venture Tuesday



Typical client lunch



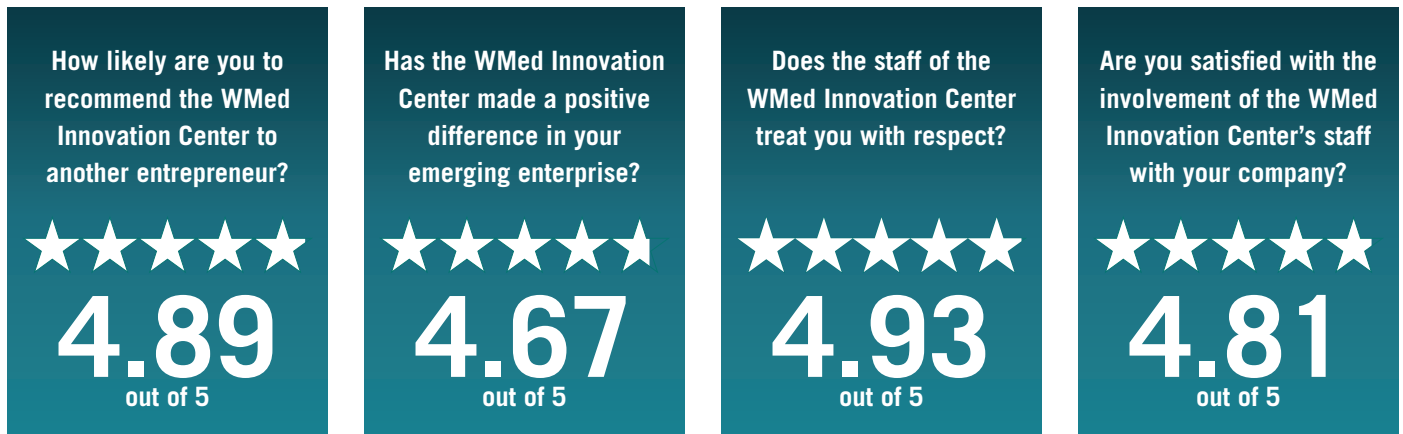
Global Ties delegation of Japanese research security professionals

OUR CLIENTS

- APEX Accelerator
- Earthodic Inc
- Exactica Analytical Services
- Food For Skin
- InnovaPaper Technology
- LifeNet Health
- Kalsec
- Microbiologics
- MONEYSPRINTER, INC.
- Next Stage Labs
- PharmOcular, Inc.
- Proteos, Inc.
- Revision Autonomy
- SafeSense Technologies LLC
- Single Source Procurement
- StatLab Medical Products
- Tarn Biosciences
- Tetra Therapeutics
- Vestaron Corporation
- Videka LLC
- WMU BRCC
- XCell Battery Technology

Client Satisfaction Survey Highlights

Every year we ask our clients to evaluate our work. We are proud that our clients report a very high satisfaction rate for the Innovation Center and its staff. The annual client satisfaction survey utilizes a **5-point scale**.



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“The WMed Innovation Center has been an important part of our growth as we continue building our product. The staff has consistently been professional, supportive, and genuinely invested in helping founders succeed.”

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“I’ve enjoyed my time here, and I feel completely safe and comfortable when I am here on my own. I appreciate your security.”

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Nothing speaks to success like the hard numbers. We are proud to report the annual economic impact that the Innovation Center achieved through the efforts of our client companies for the past 12 months (4/1/2025–3/31/2026).

Number of Companies Created	4
Number of Companies Expanded	6
Number of Companies Served	40
Jobs Created (Number of FTEs)	36
Average Annual Salary of Jobs Created	\$44,444
Jobs Retained	118
Average Annual Salary of Jobs Retained	\$53,434
SBIR, STTR, and Other Federal Funding	\$586,739
VC/Angel Investment	\$5,300,000
Owner Investment	\$23,000
New Sales (Increase in Revenue)	\$2,781,342
People/Companies Attending Events	800
Patents Applied For	35
Issued Patents	11
Licensing Agreements	6

*Data collected from the annual Innovation Center grant reports to the MEDC,
October 2025 and April 2026*

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“The Innovation Center is a reliable, supportive home for an ongoing lab or business; but it also creates an environment where we encounter new ideas and perspectives from a broad range of specialties sharing the space. I often learn something novel and inspiring right here in the hallway.”