

# INNOVATION MILL

Limitless Development  Inspired Community

Contact: Sheri Winesett  
Innovation Mill  
[Sheri@sheriwinesett.com](mailto:Sheri@sheriwinesett.com), 202.253.2830



THE ADVANCEMENT  
FOUNDA TION

Contact: Annette Patterson  
The Advancement Foundation  
[Annette.taf@gmail.com](mailto:Annette.taf@gmail.com), 540.815.6106

## Innovation Mill to Engineer Opportunities for Entrepreneurs with Early Stage Companies in High Growth Industries

### Now Accepting Applications for Q3

Thanks to assistance from a GOVA Region 2 grant, Innovation Mill will work to increase the birth rate of new high growth companies by helping 5 companies per quarter validate their proof of concept.

Innovation Mill supports early stage businesses in high-growth industries by providing next level resources, proof of concept, market research, industry expertise, and higher education networks in order to prepare for scaling both regionally and nationally.

During their time at Innovation Mill, entrepreneurs will be guided through 6 stages to prove their concept which include: 360 evaluations, Business & Innovation Development Teams, Customer Discovery, Industry expertise, Higher education and investor feedback. Companies will work alongside undergraduate students, fellow entrepreneurs, and their own Business Innovation and Development (BID) team to innovate, pivot, and expand their company.

Innovation Mill is led by Chief Innovation Officer, Sheri Winesett, Annette Patterson, President of the Advancement Foundation and Debbie Custer, Innovation Mill's lead industry expert. Innovation Mill was a brainchild of Annette Patterson who saw an opportunity to help early stage businesses who weren't ready for an accelerator program but needed guidance on how to plug in to the entrepreneurial resources in our region.

Said Annette Patterson, "Our goal is to catch early stage companies who need direction and expertise to get them to the next level while creating an additional funnel for entrepreneurs to be routed to other business resources such as the SBDC, SCORE, RAMP, co-working spaces, pitch events and other resources that's are here to support entrepreneurs in our region."

For a link to the application, you can go here: <https://theadvancementfoundation.org/innovation-mill/>