INNOVATION SCHOLARS

working at the intersection of science, healthcare & entrepreneurship

Program Enhancement Opportunity

Background

A priority identified in the current strategic plan is to provide training and networking opportunities to students, faculty and staff involved in IS and their corresponding campus community. The overarching goals are to:

- Broaden the reach of Innovation Scholars to more students and faculty
- Reinforce the quality of the IS program deliverables
- Strengthen talent development and community engagement value propositions
- Boost connection to IS alumni

During the 2024-25 academic year, IS piloted a collaboration with Nucleate Dojo and Macalester College to sponsor the Nucleate Dojo Explore program. With the success of this pilot, there is now the possibility of expanding the program to additional IS schools.

Nucleate Dojo Explore: A Brief Overview

Nucleate Dojo Explore is a program designed to empower undergraduate students interested in the biotech industry and early-stage venture creation. It provides foundational knowledge and resources to help students understand the biotech sector and potential career opportunities. Nucleate Dojo Explore is part of the larger Nucleate Dojo initiative, which aims to support undergraduate students in life sciences through education, community, and resource support.

What is it?

- A 5-week seminar and workshop series
- Focused on the basics of the biotech venture creation process and key decision-making frameworks for early-stage commercialization
- Hosted by students in-person on college campuses in collaboration with Nucleate Dojo and Innovation Scholars

What does it cover?

- Week 1 – An Introduction to Biotech
- Week 2 – Spinout Founders
- Week 3 – Market Analysis
- Week 4 – IP and Tech Transfer Offices
- Week 5 – A Biopharma Story, from Seed to Series A

Key takeaways:

- Gain insights from industry experts: The program brings in biotech professionals to lead seminars
- Explore how research contributes to real-world solutions
- Connect with innovators: Network with like-minded individuals interested in biotech

Innovation Scholars Sponsorship:

- Help source seminar speakers
- Sponsor food and drinks for the seminars (up to $500 per college)
- Promote and advertise the program