

Press release
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WU Institute for Entrepreneurship receives Leadership Award



WU's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation has been distinguished with the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers' (GCEC) Leadership Award, as the first non-American institution to receive this prestigious distinction. This award is granted annually by GCEC – the world's largest association of academic entrepreneurship centers – to educational institutions that have generated outstanding publications, ideas and successful programs in the field of entrepreneurship in recent years.

The Leadership Award was presented during the 14th Annual Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers 2010 Conference in Pennsylvania. The prize is traditionally awarded to American centers and institutes, as interest in the field of entrepreneurship arose much earlier in the USA, and a higher emphasis is placed on entrepreneurial issues. WU's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is very proud to be the first institution outside the USA to receive the award.

An award for world leaders in entrepreneurship education

The prize-winning universities, with their institutes and the leaders of these institutes, represent the world's best education in entrepreneurship. "This award honors the achievements of our whole team here at the Institute, who are dedicated to entrepreneurship with all their commitment, initiative and immense creativity – and also, of course, for our students, who managed to inspire our project partners in over 300 practical projects", says Nikolaus Franke, founder of WU's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. His colleague Christopher Lettl adds, "It is also a very positive recognition of our intensive cooperation with the Vienna University of Technology (TU)".

Entrepreneurship at WU

WU's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation was founded in September of 2001. Many different lecturers from the business community as well as international guest lecturers have been involved in the continuous development and expansion of the Institute from the start. Currently, the Institute has two full-time professors and 14 junior faculty members. The Institute is an important part of WU's international profile, and the receipt of the Leadership Award is another step in this direction. "I am delighted that WU is now 'on the map' internationally in terms of excellence in entrepreneurship teaching and research", says Barbara Sporn, Vice Rector for Research, International Affairs and External Relations.

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