

**Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership**

**The Road to Entrepreneurship:**

**NextStep**

**Objective:**

To provide assistance to students who wish to develop a business idea through test piloting their idea. Ideally, the NextStep Fellowship will prepare them to apply for a Seed Capital investment.

**Process:**

1. Students will prepare a short business abstract describing their business idea which will be reviewed by JCEL staff and JCEL Board of Directors.
2. Students who wish to be considered must secure a faculty sponsor in discipline related to their product or service.
3. The Seed Capital Committee may approve unconditionally, conditionally or disapprove any proposed business to receive NextStep funding of up to $ 1,300 for research process.
4. When approved, the students will be assigned one or more mentors by JCEL staff and with additional guidance from their faculty sponsor will research the feasibility of his/her business idea.
5. The students, with help from mentors, faculty sponsor, and JCEL, designs and implements a test piloting program to test and gather feedback on his/her business idea.

**Seed Capital:**

The NextStep Fellowship results in a business plan. Students wanting to start their business and seek funding assistance may make a presentation of their plan to the Seed Capital Committee.