



# The Indiana Entrepreneur

## Institute for Entrepreneurship & Competitive Enterprise

Funded by the Charles Koch Foundation



The Institute for Entrepreneurship & Competitive Enterprise (IECE) is an academically focused initiative established to enhance the entrepreneurial mindset across the entire Indiana University campus. The institute is housed at the Kelley School of Business in the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in order to enlarge the entrepreneurship faculty team, support the continued output of world-class research, develop new staff positions, and develop new programs.

The goal of the institute is to study and explore entrepreneurship as the catalyst of the competitive free enterprise system through research seminars, speakers, programs, and discussion groups. The only way to accomplish this goal is to establish this institute with faculty, staff, research, and programs dedicated to the education, inception, design, and implementation of increased understanding and appreciation for the benefits of entrepreneurship through economic freedom and free enterprise.

## Rankings



**Entrepreneurship Research**  
Worldwide

*Journal of Small Business  
Management, 2018*



**Entrepreneurship**  
Among Public Universities

*U.S. News & World Report, 2020*



**Entrepreneurship**  
Overall

*U.S. News & World Report, 2020*

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## Featured Scholars: Three Entrepreneurship Professors Honored with Top National Awards

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Three entrepreneurship professors were honored by the Academy of Management this past August at the national conference in Boston, MA. **Dr. Sophie Bacq**, **Dr. Trent Williams**, and **Dr. Eric Zhao** all received the Emerging Scholar Award for innovative and impactful contributions to entrepreneurship research. This is an exceptional accomplishment since each year only three awards are bestowed. So, this year it was a complete sweep for Indiana University!

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Sophie Bacq

A leading scholar in social entrepreneurship, **Dr. Sophie Bacq** is an associate professor of entrepreneurship at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. She investigates and theorizes about entrepreneurial action aiming to solve intractable social and environmental problems, at the individual, organizational, and civic levels of analysis. In particular, she examines 1) the

drivers of social entrepreneurial intention, 2) the governance of social enterprises as organizations subject to competing demands and multiple principal stakeholders, and 3) the civic wealth creation that results from collective action involving enterprises, communities, and regimes of support.

Sophie has co-edited several books on these topics, and her research has been published in leading academic journals such as *Academy of Management Discoveries*, *Academy of Management Perspectives*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, *California Management Review*, *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, *Entrepreneurship: Theory & Practice*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Business Venturing*, and *Journal of Small Business Management*. She is an associate editor at the *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship* and serves on the editorial review boards of the *Journal of Business Venturing* and *Entrepreneurship: Theory & Practice*. Sophie has taught and conducted empirical research on social entrepreneurship in Europe, the United States, and South Africa. She is the co-director (along with Jill Kickul) of the annual Social Entrepreneurship Conference.

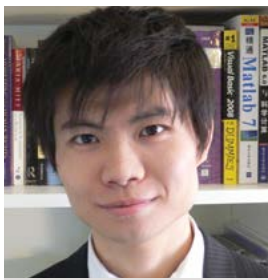


Trent Williams

**Dr. Trent Williams** is an associate professor of entrepreneurship and holds the Oslan Family Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. His research focuses on early stages of new venture emergence. In particular, he has studied how entrepreneurs launch ventures under extremely resource-constrained environments—

including post-natural disaster. He and his co-authors developed a concept of “spontaneous venturing,” which describes the processes by which organizations rapidly

emerge to meet both economic and social demands following a major crisis. In exploring this concept, he conducted studies across many countries (Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Australia, Lebanon, Nepal, etc.) in seeking to explain how principles of entrepreneurship hold (or do not hold) across contexts. He has ongoing studies focused on immigrant entrepreneurship, overcoming adversity following career loss, and entrepreneurship in rural, declining US communities. His work has appeared in two books (Cambridge University Press, MIT Press) as well as premier management journals, including the *Academy of Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Journal of Business Venturing*, *Journal of Management*, *Academy of Management Annals*, and *Journal of Management Studies*, among others.



Eric Zhao

**Dr. Eric Zhao** is an associate professor of management and entrepreneurship and the Institute for Entrepreneurship & Competitive Enterprise Faculty Fellow at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Eric’s research draws on contemporary theory in strategy, organization theory, and entrepreneurship to study social and technological ventures that aim to address important societal

problems (e.g., poverty, gender inequality, and technological innovation). In particular, he examines how these ventures

experience and resolve core strategic tensions and achieve optimal distinctiveness as they confront these difficult challenges, competing demands from multiple stakeholders, and important trade-offs (e.g., financial sustainability vs. social responsibility; differentiating to gain uniqueness vs. conforming to gain legitimacy). Eric’s research demonstrates the power of entrepreneurship in creating both economic and social prosperity. Eric has published in leading management and entrepreneurship journals, including *Academy of Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Academy of Management Annals*, *Organization Science*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of Business Venturing*, and *Organization Studies*, among others.

# IU Entrepreneurial Connection Day

The annual IU Entrepreneurial Connection Day is a campuswide event that honors an entrepreneurial leader of national stature and features them as a keynote speaker. We also honor two entrepreneurial alumni of the Kelley School who are genuinely successful in their endeavors and serve as role models.

## Distinguished Entrepreneurial Leadership Award



Neal Rickner

**Neal Rickner** is a tech executive who specializes in advancing new ventures through early-stage growth. He has led multiple teams at Google including Helpouts, a live-video online learning start-up within Google, and is currently the chief operating officer of Makani, a next-generation wind turbine company owned by Alphabet.

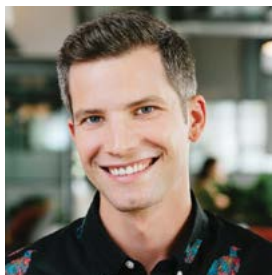
Before coming to Silicon Valley, Neal served 12 years on active duty with the US Marine Corps as

an F/A-18 pilot and forward air controller. He completed three tours in Iraq between 2003 and 2007, earning the Bronze Star with "Valor" device, and 13 Air Medals. He transitioned from active duty in 2009, earning dual master's degrees (business and international affairs) from Columbia University.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Neal is a Tillman Scholar, volunteers as a Big Brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, is on the advisory boards of the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and Vets in Tech, and is a member of the Truman National Security Project's Defense Council.

## Kelley Alumni Recognized

### Emerging Entrepreneurial Leadership Award



Matt Hunckler  
BS'09

**Matt Hunckler, BS'09**, is an entrepreneur, international speaker, podcast host, and CEO of Powderkeg. Powderkeg is a digital community of more than 10,000 tech entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals building innovative companies across America. Powderkeg helps its members connect their companies with a powerful suite of resources. Their community-as-a-service platform links founders to talent, capital, and

customers to help them scale their business.

Hunckler is a voice for tech entrepreneurs around the world, regularly contributing to publications like *Forbes* and *HuffPost*. He is frequently interviewed for TV, radio, podcasts, and docuseries to share his unique perspective on technology and start-ups. Matt has given talks and emceed for hundreds of live events including technology conferences, start-up pitch events, corporate meetings, and hackathons. From intimate environments to 2,000+ person events, Matt connects with his audiences for a memorable experience that inspires, educates, and entertains.

Matt has led successful teams with his own ventures, as well as Inc. 500 companies and venture-funded tech start-ups. He was named an entrepreneur to watch by *Under30CEO* and an *Indianapolis Business Journal* "Forty Under 40" honoree for his entrepreneurial endeavors.

### Emerging Entrepreneur Award



Theresa Krier  
MBA'09

**Theresa Krier, MBA'09**, had her entrepreneurial "lightbulb moment" backstage at New York Fashion Week. She noticed that although the models were thirsty under all of the lights, hair, and makeup, they weren't interested in drinking the available sodas. She wanted to create a better option—a delicious, handcrafted, wellness-enhancing beverage that would truly nourish the mind, body, and spirit.

The result is the world's first couture tea brand, Big T NYC, merging artistry and wellness in the tea category. With the launch of Little T, their new line of herbal teas for kids, the company is pioneering the children's tea market and is proud to offer health-promoting teas for people of all ages. Theresa's unique take on the ancient beverage of tea has earned the attention of extensive global press, as well as best-in-class product awards, and she was named one of 15 female entrepreneurs to watch by *Entrepreneur Magazine*.



**KELLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**  
GO FROM MOMENT TO MOMENTUM

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## Save the Date

### IU Entrepreneurial Connection Day

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

- 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- Hodge Hall, Kelley School of Business
- Speaker: TBD

## Contact Us

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