



2025

IMPACT REPORT

UAB
The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.

Bill L. Harbert Institute for
Innovation & Entrepreneurship



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 marked another strong year for the Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We launched five startups, executed 50 agreements, received 153 intellectual property disclosures, and funded nine early-stage UAB technologies through the Blazer Bridge Fund. These efforts helped generate \$7.45 million in revenue across UAB's innovation ecosystem. We expanded our programming with the launch of the Blazer App Accelerator, supporting 19 participants as they refined software-based ideas, and introduced the Patent Coin program to celebrate UAB inventors named on U.S. Patents. The team at the Harbert Institute is deeply grateful to the faculty, students, entrepreneurs and partners who make this work possible, and we look forward to continued growth in 2026.

Kathy Nugent

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STANDOUT

NUMBERS



\$7.45M

Revenue
Generated



153

Intellectual
Property
Disclosures



2,000+

Total Inventor
Outreach



22

U.S. Patents
Issued



50

Licenses
Executed



5

Start-ups
Launched



24

Story
Features



31

Marketing
Campaigns



912

LinkedIn
Followers

STAFF

ADDITIONS

FULL-TIME STAFF



Trey Melazzo, PharmD, MBA
Faculty Liaison



Angelia Ashley
Financial Associate

STUDENT EMPLOYEES



Kamdi Akwuba
Biotech Marketing &
Program Assistant



Samuel Bharti
Business
Development Fellow



**Christian Lopez
Blanco**
Business
Development Fellow



Riley Yager
Business
Development Fellow



**Catie James
Wilson**
Communications
Student Assistant

BLAZER BRIDGE

FUND

The Blazer Bridge Fund (BBF) is an early-stage translational fund that supports the development of novel intellectual property (IP) to attract

licensee interest and/or position the technology for IP protection. The BBF is supported by the HIIIE and provides funding of up to \$50,000 per project.



IN 2025, WE RECEIVED

41

from

98

across

45

applications

innovators

**departments and
divisions within
four schools**

WE AWARDED

9

**grants to
faculty from**

Collat School of Business
Heersink School of Medicine
School of Dentistry
School of Engineering

IN THREE YEARS, THE BBF HAS INVESTED

\$900K

**in a
total of**

21

projects

BLAZER

APP ACCELERATOR

The Blazer App Accelerator (BAA) helps potential UAB software and app creators validate ideas that are ready for further funding via the Blazer Bridge Fund application process or to launch as potential startup companies. The Harbert Institute has partnered with Harmony Venture Labs, a Birmingham-area company, to create the BAA. Harmony Venture Labs' AppThink program guides participants through an entrepreneurship curriculum, focusing on real-world applications.

BLAZER
APP ACCELERATOR →

THE FIRST TWO COHORTS HAVE INCLUDED

19

**participants
from these
UAB entities:**

ArtPlay Community Education
Collat School of Business
College of Arts & Sciences
Heersink School of Medicine
Graduate School

IN THE 2025 BLAZER BRIDGE FUND CYCLE

33%

**of winners were Blazer App
Accelerator participants**

PATENT

COINS



In 2025, the Harbert Institute launched a Patent Coin program, which awards personalized commemorative coins to UAB inventors who are named on U.S. Patents.



INNOVATION

AWARDS



2026 Innovation Award Winners:

Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Ashish Shah, M.D.

Startup of the Year

iNOvodel

Community Partner of the Year

Harmony Venture Labs

Most Prolific Inventor

Masakazu Kamata,
Ph.D.

Most Outstanding Entrepreneurship Student

Jaival Vikal

2026 Members of the UAB Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors:

Namasivayam
Ambalavanan, M.D.

Amit Gaggar, M.D.

Richard Popple,
Ph.D.

Steven Rowe, M.D.

Andrei Stanishevsky,
Ph.D.

HARBERT

HIGHLIGHTS

NEW FACULTY LIAISON

The Harbert Institute has created a new Faculty Liaison role to better connect UAB researchers with innovation and commercialization support. In the role, Trey Melazzo, PharmD, MBA, works closely with faculty to help turn promising lab discoveries into protected technologies, partnerships, and real-world impact.



UAB'S FIRST NONPROFIT STARTUP

One of the newest UAB startups, which is working to redefine and drastically improve cystic fibrosis care around the world, also marks a major milestone. Dream a Little Dream (DALD), founded by UAB Professor Hector Gutierrez, M.D., is the university's first nonprofit startup.



UAB STARTUP PARTNERS WITH HARDWARE PARK

Electric Indigo LLC, a UAB spinout, has partnered with Birmingham-based Hardware Park to develop light-emitting eyewear designed to slow the progression of myopia in children. The technology builds on UAB research led by Rafael Grytz, Ph.D., which identified indigo light as playing an important role in healthy eye development.



UAB STARTUP FEATURED IN WSJ

A fast-growing UAB startup company was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal. The publication's Buy Side, which reports on new products, featured a hair serum that uses technology developed by UAB spinoff company Yuva Biosciences.



RESBIOTIC RAISES \$14.5M IN FUNDING

ResBiotic, a UAB startup founded by C. Vivek Lal, M.D., recently announced \$14.5 million in funding. The company develops products based on the Gut-X axis, which studies how the gut microbiome communicates with organs throughout the body.



2025

IN SNAPSHOTS

