



# iRISE

Philadelphia



We empower the next generation of STEM innovators and entrepreneurs to translate ideas into highly impactful new ventures



## **The Innovation and Research-Inspired STEM Entrepreneurship (iRISE-Philadelphia)**

program is a collaborative initiative launched as a unique partnership between Philadelphia's University City Science Center, the UNCF, and Black Tech Ventures to expand and accelerate the participation of Black & Brown scientists, researchers, and STEM students (undergraduates, graduates, Ph.D. and Postdoc candidates) in tech and life science startups or as leaders in technology transfer and commercialization.

The goal of this two-track program is to help aspiring STEM entrepreneurs translate academic research and new ideas into viable startup companies as Founders or establish successful careers as Emerging Technology Leaders.

iRISE-Philadelphia's eighteen-month cycle will have participants spend the first six (6) months attending programming on how to translate academic innovations into for-profit or not-for-profit ventures. Then spend the next twelve (12) months in residency at the Science Center working on site for their venture as either a Founder or Fellow.

iRISE Philadelphia's programming will include extensive entrepreneurial mentorship, training, and education, tailored to give participants the skills needed to transition from academic researcher to startup leader for launching a successful venture, commercializing a viable product, and building a productive team that scales a startup from seed to sustainability.

iRISE-Philadelphia is seeking to engage and empower Black & Brown scientists, researchers, STEM students, and professionals who are passionate about STEM and entrepreneurship to launch highly scalable startups or build successful careers as leaders in tech-transfer.

**Black Tech Ventures**



iRISE-Philadelphia has been designed as a multi-step program that provides opportunities for participants to hear from Subject Matter Experts, meet STEM Innovators, and learn from diverse Content Providers on the realities of entrepreneurship and scientific commercialization through a phased approach.

## PHASE I - General Interest Sessions

Open enrollment and consisting of introductory programming of interdependent workshops and presentations on Lean Startup principles, intro to Bio-entrepreneurship, Design Thinking, and more. Sessions will include three (3) two-hour (2) hour events that will be a combination of in-person, virtual, and hybrid activities.



## PHASE II - Pre Accelerator

The core of this program is to support Founders and Fellows, primarily selected from Phase I, with ideation – whether it’s an inkling or fleshed out – to hone it for potential commercialization. This programming phase is designed to provide access to a rich portfolio of resources that will include:

Comprehensive Workshops

Mentorship & Coaching

Building Community

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

iRISE-Philadelphia is designed to support Black & Brown scientists, researchers, STEM students (undergraduate, graduate, Ph.D. candidate, and Postdoc) that have the passion or demonstrated interest in launching viable life science or tech startup companies or academic career interest for developing research into new technologies, products, and companies.

## PHASE III - iRISE Accelerator

### FOUNDERS

Selected from Phase II - Pre-Accelerator candidates for admission to this stage of the program. The iRISE Philadelphia Accelerator’s operational model will activate and support early-stage, growth-driven life science and biotech companies by providing the following assistance and benefits:

Training & Education

Mentorship & Coaching

Free Office Space

Reduced Cost Lab Facilities

Financing

### FELLOWS

Selected from Phase II - Pre-Accelerator candidates for admission to this stage of the program. The iRISE-Philadelphia Accelerator Fellowship program is an interprofessional learning experience designed to give participants a comprehensive understanding of STEM entrepreneurship and commercialization while enabling Fellows to learn and practice proven strategies and techniques for building successful academic careers for developing research into new technologies, products, and companies.

All participants will be expected to be active and fully engaged in all programming for the duration of iRISE Philadelphia’s eighteen-month cycle to qualify for the opportunity to be considered for funding as either a Founder or Fellow. If selected the Founder or Fellow will receive a direct investment from iRISE-Philadelphia to cover salary, expenses, rent, and other startup costs.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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