

Partnership Brochure

About the Dry Dock

The Dry Dock is a unique, university-led venture studio model at Vanderbilt University designed to optimize both the founder and the startup to launch the next generation of unicorns. More than a hackathon, and more flexible than a traditional studio, the Dry Dock combines students, alumni, and faculty to build real companies solving frontier tech challenges.

Inspired by our maritime mascot, the Dry Dock is where early-stage ventures are constructed, tested, and prepared for launch.

Confirmed Speakers



Jonathan Felbinger
Deputy Director
QED C



Bryan Power
Ex-Chief People Officer
Square, Yahoo, NextDoor



Moenes Iskarous
Ex-CTO
Infineon Technologies



Elizabeth Rossi
Quantum AI External Affairs
Google



Vandiver Chaplin
Principal Engineer
IonQ



Ryan McKenney
General Counsel
Quantinuum

Agenda

Lead Up Schedule

Wednesday, March 18, 2026	5:30 to 7:00 pm	Launch Mixer for Accepted Teams
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	5:30 to 6:30 pm	Faculty Lecture: Quantum Fundamentals
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	5:30 to 6:30 pm	Alumni Panel: Quantum Fundamentals
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	5:30 to 6:30 pm	Faculty Lecture: Quantum Computing
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	5:30 to 6:30 pm	Alumni Lecture: Building in Quantum
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	5:30 to 6:30 pm	Alumni Lecture: Quantum Future

Build Week Schedule

Thursday, April 30th	5:00 to 6:00 pm	Kickoff Event & Keynote
	6:30 to 8:30 pm	Evening Activity
Friday, May 1st	10:00 to 10:55 am	Quantum Keynote 1
	11:00 to 11:55 am	Quantum Keynote 2
	Noon to 12:50 pm	Lunch
	1:00 to 1:30 pm	Pricing Enterprise Software
	1:30 to 2:00 pm	Marketing Enterprise Software
	2:00 to 2:30 pm	Selling Enterprise Software
	2:30 to 3:00 pm	Human Capital in Fast Growing Companies
	3:00 to 3:30 pm	Financing Fast Growing Companies
	3:30 to 5:00 pm	Group Sync Time
	Saturday, May 2 nd through Monday, May 4 th	9:30 to 10:30
10:30 to 12:30 pm		Build Time
12:30 to 1:30 pm		Lunch & Check In
1:30 to 5:30 pm		Build Time
5:30 to 6:00 pm		Mentor Checkin
Tuesday, May 5th	9:00 to 10:00 am	Virtual Keynote
	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	Build Time
	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Sponsor Meetings
	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Mentor Checkin
Wednesday, May 6th	9:30 to 11:30 AM	Demo & Pitch Day
	Noon to 1 pm	Awards Lunch
	1 pm to 3 pm	Investor Meetings

Sponsorship

With the Dry Dock, you are not sponsoring an event – you are seeding startup creation. Our sponsors gain access to elite talent, define problems / source solutions, and gain first access to venture backable companies.

Supporting Sponsor

\$10,000

- Invitation to Launch Mixer
- Invitation to Build Week Kickoff Event
- Invitation to Lectures
- VIP ticket to Ship Launch
- Can provide products and services for use during the Dry Dock
- Can hold 1:1 meetings during Build Week
- Logo on website and on-site

Challenge Sponsor

\$20,000

All the benefits of Supporting Sponsors plus:

- Ability to propose one challenge for teams to build
- First look rights for partnership
- Right to present first term sheet
- Ability to co-invest at least 25% alongside lead investors
- 1 executive embedded during Build Week (office hours)
- Invitation to May the 4th Event
- Logo prominence across channels

Title Sponsor

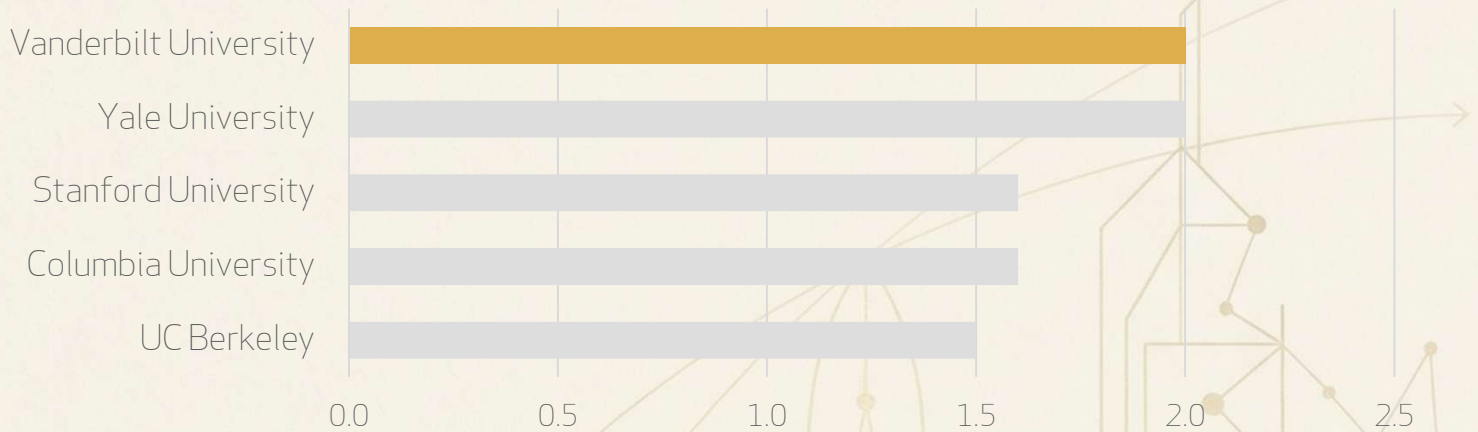
\$50,000

All the benefits of Supporting and Challenge Sponsors plus:

- Naming rights (the Dry Dock powered by X)
- Keynote speaking slot
- Ability to host events / receptions during Build Week

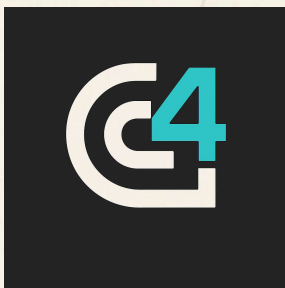
Vanderbilt Right to Win

Likelihood of Producing Unicorns



Analysis of 1,110 companies achieving unicorn status by Ilya Stebulaev of the Stanford Graduate School of Business Venture Capital Initiative.

Founded in March 2024, the College of Connected Computing (CCC) the college creates unique opportunities for innovation that crosses traditional boundaries by connecting computing with diverse fields—from medicine and engineering to the arts and humanities. Research at the CCC tackles pressing challenges in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, cybersecurity, human-computer interaction, and computational methods across fields.



Founded before the Dot Com era, the Vanderbilt Center for Entrepreneurship supports students and alumni as they build, buy, invest in, or join startups. With a full slate of proprietary programming and resources to support revenue generation, talent formation, and capital management, the C4E is focused on building the next generation of unicorns.

The Institute for Quantum Innovation will allow Vanderbilt University's leading quantum nanophotonics, research and educational programs to have collaborative access to the EPB Quantum CenterSM, the nation's first facility to provide commercial access to both a trapped-ion quantum computer and a photonics-based local quantum network. Vanderbilt and EPB Chattanooga intend to accelerate discoveries from research to the real world; drive advancements in energy, national security, health, insurance, logistics and critical infrastructure; and prepare the workforce of the future.

