

Shepherd University Establishes the Center for Regional Innovation

» Co-directors for the Center for Regional Innovation

Dr. Scott Beard

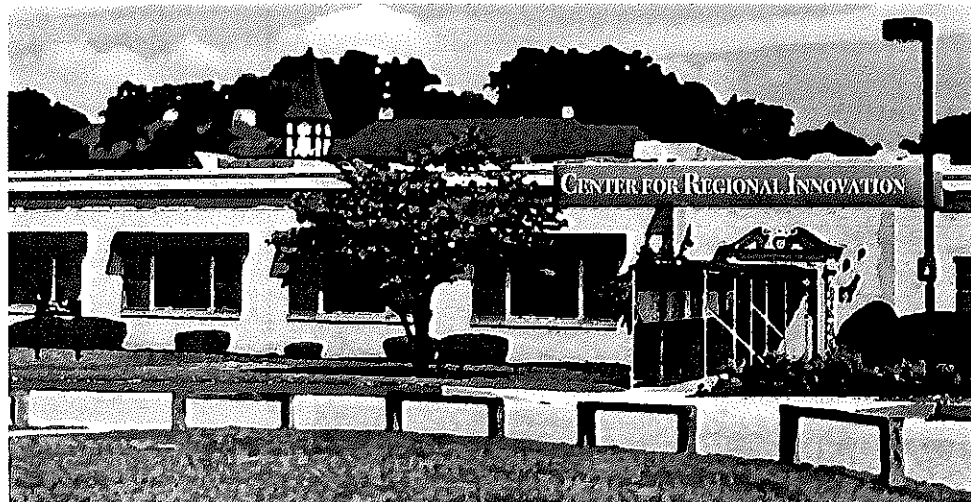
Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Continuing Education

Dr. Ben Martz

Dean, Business School Development and Chair, Department of Business Administration

Dr. Colleen Nolan

Dean, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics



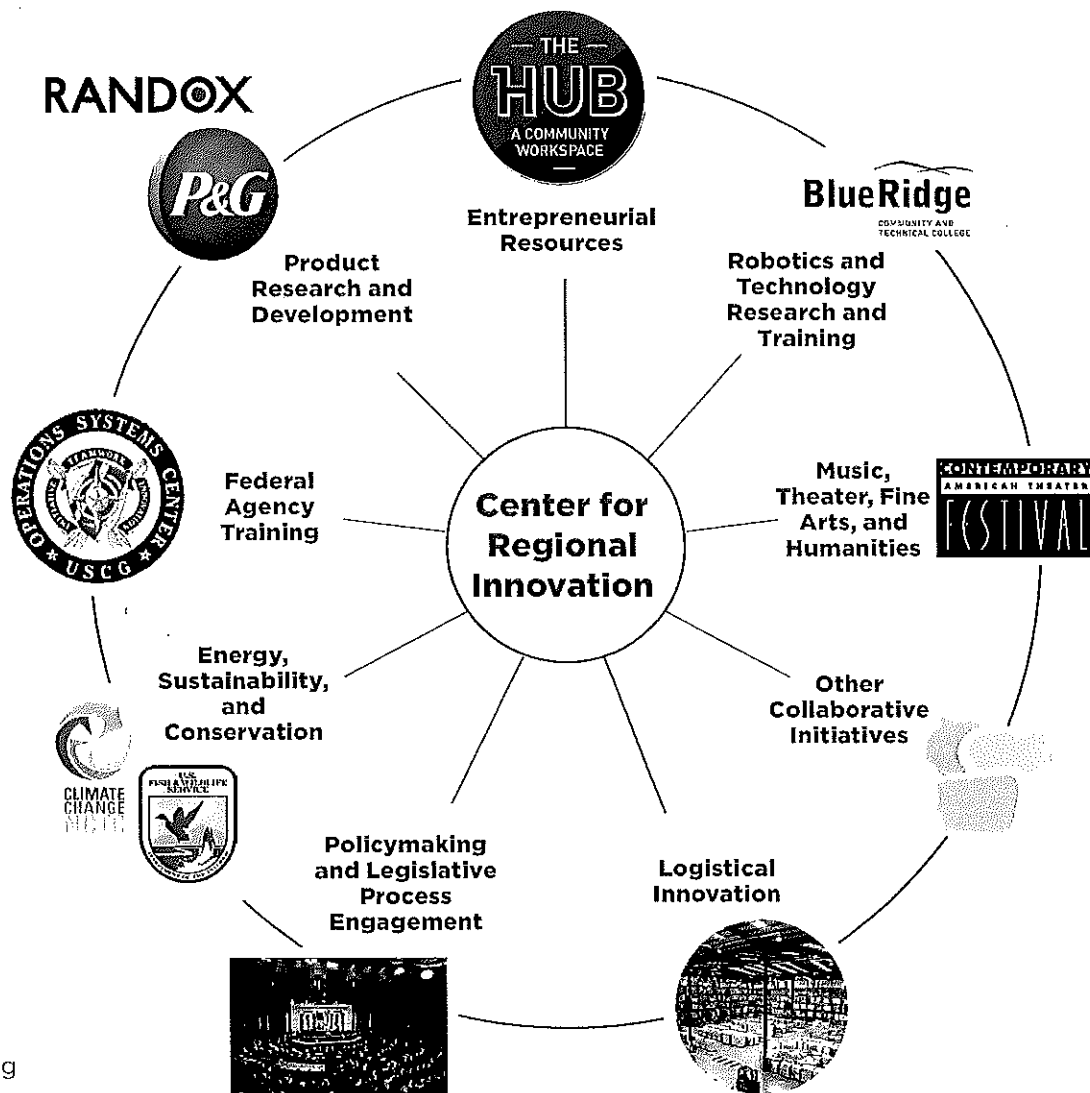
» Prospective Partners

Uniting knowledge, talent, and ideas from the region's major companies, local startups, community organizations, and schools to solve challenges and generate opportunity for a thriving innovation economy. Examples include (see figure):

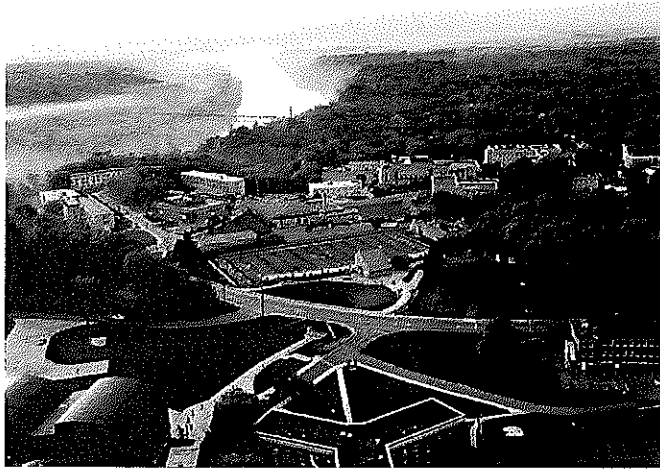
» Engaging and Inspiring Current and Future Leaders From and For Our Region

Applying concepts learned in the classroom to real-world problems solidifies the learning process and inspires curiosity in students.

Not only will the center seek to engage and inspire college students and K-12 students from our region to pursue their highest educational and career aspirations, student involvement in the center will bring energetic intellectual curiosity and fresh perspective to developing projects and initiatives.

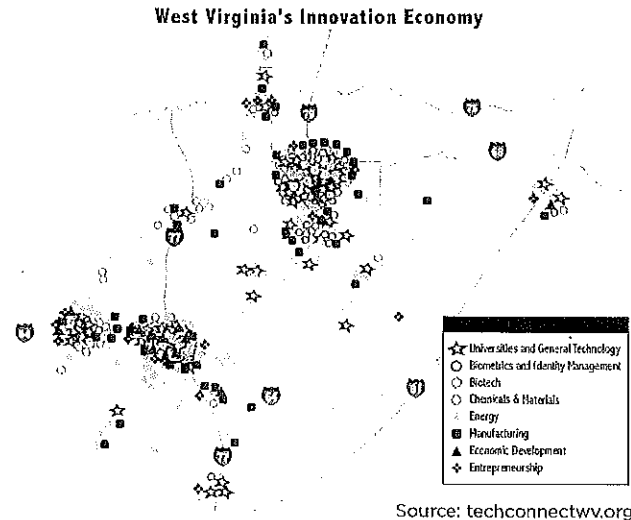


Creating Opportunity for the Future of Our Region



» The recipe for a big idea often starts with getting the right players in the same place at the same time.

Shepherd University, recognizing the value of collaborative learning and creative inspiration, seeks to establish a center for regional innovation that will attract current and future leaders and give their ideas space to take shape and take off.



» West Virginia's Innovation Economy

West Virginia's Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties hold great potential for strategic growth of the innovation economy.

Resources and potential change-makers are already present in the region. Developing a powerful forum for partnerships, collaboration, and alignment of resources could position this region to lead West Virginia and the nation as a model of collaborative innovation and economic transformation.

» Establishing the Center for Regional Innovation

Shepherd University is poised to establish the physical space and the collaborative environment that will lead to **economic transformation** for this region and for the state of West Virginia. Establishing the Center for Regional Innovation will **unite and empower the people and ideas** of our region for **a future of opportunity and growth**, including:

- The development of a group decision support center, where the business community can benefit from targeted marketing research conducted by Shepherd University;
- The creation of new analytical tools and the processes to inform and support workplace productivity;
- The cultivation of various perspectives in the humanities, sciences, and environmental studies to address the global impact of climate change on agriculture, health, and quality of life;
- The expansion of new technologies for our service providers and citizens for life enhancement and survival, while inspiring the next generation to seek higher education degrees and advance West Virginia;
- A new environment to incubate novel ideas across all disciplines and bring them into practice—benefiting children, their families, schools, community, businesses, West Virginia, and humanity in general; and
- Innovative use of technology to engage all members of the community including individuals residing in hospitals, rehabilitation and assisted living centers, and correctional facilities.