### Project Aims
- Examine how organizations promote innovation and entrepreneurship (I & E) through innovation centers
- Understand how to promote a stronger innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem at UNH

### Research Question
How do innovation centers promote innovation and entrepreneurship within their organizational settings?

### Data and Analysis
- **Documents (e.g., websites and news articles)**
- **Observation notes taken during guided tour**
- **Semi-structured interviews with administrators (audio-taped and transcribed)**

#### Analysis
- All data sources were coded to identify common themes (ways to promote I & E)
- Comparison matrix was constructed to show how each university promoted I & E

### Comparative Case Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yale University</th>
<th>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Center for Engineering Innovation &amp; Design (CEID)</strong> (One facility operated out of the Engineering School)</td>
<td><strong>The Innovation Hub</strong>: Rensselaer Technology Park, Emerging Ventures Ecosystem, and the Office of Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and New Ventures (Tenant companies &amp; multiple technologies, including biomed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Diversity
- **Yale CEID**: “We are a very interdisciplinary space; there isn’t a single user category.”
  - 2000 current members spanning over 50 different academic disciplines
- **RPI Innovation Ecosystem**: “We are all for the most part engineers, but in different disciplines.”
  - Broad diversity of technologies
  - Business partners as sponsors

### Community
- **Yale CEID**: “You see students working hard, working late, laughing, having a good time.”
- **RPI Innovation Ecosystem**: “We use that space as a venue for people to get together.”

### Guided Learning Experiences
- **Yale CEID**: “Students have access to working alongside their friends, engineers.”
  - “We just informally walk around and support projects. We have faculty from other disciplines come in and have office hours a couple times a week.”
- **RPI Innovation Ecosystem**: “What’s innovative is the education process. We teach them about the design process and engage them in activities.”
  - “A good mentor has connections and a wealth of knowledge for your venture.”

### Innovation Process

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<th>Time &gt; Idea Generation</th>
<th>Time &gt; Problem Solving</th>
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<td>“They didn’t come up with the idea until 4 weeks (into the course).”</td>
<td>“You have to get going and solve the problem.”</td>
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**Process**: For a humanitarian project, “they generated hundreds of concepts of how to create an innovation that would (document children’s medical records).”

**Innovation**: “We provide tools, space, programming, and staff for them to develop the innovation they come up with, and do what you want to do. That’s how we foster innovation.”

**Entrepreneurship**: “When it catches on, that’s when it is an innovation. . . . From a financial standpoint, on one side, it’s good to have a lot of ideas. But then you have to move forward and implement the solutions.”

### RESULTS

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### Conclusion
Both universities offer space(s), tools, and guidance for promoting I & E
- Yale’s Engineering School offers a single space that invites the entire academic community.
- RPI offers several distinct spaces for different purposes, including business “start ups” and venture partners.
- Yale focuses on creating a culture of innovation for humanitarian purposes.
- RPI fosters a culture of entrepreneurship focused on product development and dissemination.

### Project Aims
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### References
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: [http://rpi.edu](http://rpi.edu)
- Yale Center for Engineering Innovation and Design: [http://ceid.yale.edu](http://ceid.yale.edu)

### Acknowledgment
Thank you to Amanda Becker for help designing the poster.