



STUDENT INNOVATION
IDEA LABS

"As the pandemic pushed our operations virtual, our goal was to figure out how to put our makerspaces—a 100% hands-on experience—online. We started by launching online-programming to help start businesses in Summer 2020, and in Fall 2020, we partnered with student organizations to help sustain and build the CPP Maker community through virtual meetings, innovation challenges, and competitions. In Spring 2021, we maintained our partnerships as well as relaunched our startup programming as a mini-certificate program, or badge, to help students prepare for the Bronco Startup Challenge.

We see a bright future ahead. During the coming year, the iLab will relocate to Building 1 into a newly renovated space, the footprint of the Maker Studio will expand, and the SIIL workshop library will diversify to include creativity/innovation training and teamwork development in order to support classroom instruction and extra-curricular training."

- Kenneth Lamb, Ph.D., Director of SIIL

STUDENT INNOVATION IDEA LABS

Mission

The mission of the Cal Poly Pomona Student Innovation Idea Labs (SIIL) is to create and maintain an ecosystem that fosters creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Vision

The vision of the Student Innovation Idea Labs is to be a catalyst for innovation through the establishment of strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders on the Cal Poly Pomona campus and throughout the greater Pomona Valley region.

Staff & Faculty



Kenneth Lamb, Ph.D.
Director



Jesus Bermudez
Administrative Coordinator



Michelle Allende
Technical Writer



Jasmine Dao
Web Developer



Kevin Strawn
Graphic Designer

▶ SIIL Spaces

SIIL oversees three spaces—the iLab, the Innovation Orchard (IO), and the Maker Studio. Each space offers equipment, materials, and workshops for students to expand their creativity and knowledge in conjunction to their discipline's curriculum. The iLab, located in 98C 6-06, was the first SIIL space in existence, created by Dr. Olukemi Sawyerr in 2015. It houses 3D printers, button makers, and a vinyl cutter. It also has workspace for students to meet with their peers to discuss their core curriculum or potential business ideas. The Innovation Orchard, the largest SIIL space located off-campus at Ganesha High School, provides students with a variety of heavier equipment, including wood-working tools, a laser cutter, and larger-scale 3D printers, and is a place to create large projects. Lastly, the Maker Studio is the newest SIIL space located on the 2nd floor of the library that provides unique equipment to students, such as a letterpress, an Axidraw, and a sewing and embroidery machine. It is currently SIIL's smallest, but busiest, space! It is a collaboration between SIIL, the CPP Library, and faculty in the English and Land Landscape Architecture Department. Students can visit each space to meet new people, participate in events, and create whatever their heart desires for free, regardless of college or major. SIIL is constantly evolving to expand its reach across the CPP community and to offer new, unique experiences for students, faculty, and staff.



Student Innovation
Idea Labs



Innovation Orchard



Maker Studio



▶ Entrepreneurship Badging Program

SIIL created the Entrepreneurship Badging Program to work in conjunction with a student's major curriculum. Through this program, participants gain in-depth knowledge about the entrepreneurial process and begin to further understand what it takes to start a business from the ground up. There are three levels to the badging program—bronze, silver, and gold—each of which have their own requirements for completion. The bronze level focuses on developing a business idea and its plan, while the silver level requires the product or service to be introduced into the marketplace through pitch competitions to investors and to government agencies. To complete the last phase, students are expected to show a record of initial sales or submit a notice of investor funding. The Entrepreneurship Badging Program is a culmination of the knowledge provided by SIIL being put into action.

▶ Ambassador Program

The Ambassador Program is a volunteer-based opportunity run through the Maker Studio. Ambassadors ensure that the space is functional and clean, and they provide assistance to visitors when needed. Although ambassadors are not paid, they receive a variety of perks, including access to equipment after hours and training on every piece of equipment within the space. They are a vital part of the Maker Studio, and the program is anticipated to grow with the Maker Studio expansion in the works.



► **Innovation Weekend**

From April 8-10, 2021, students worked on developing a frugal innovation that could assist a disadvantaged community during Innovation Weekend. Presented by the Cal Poly Pomona Engineers Without Borders and in collaboration with the Center for Community Engagement and SIIL, this 48-hour design sprint required teams to focus on one area of concern within the Eastern Coachella Valley, such as clean water, employment opportunities, renewable energy, and more. With guidance from experts on each chosen topic, teams created a prototype that would help solve their problem of focus, which they later presented during the closing ceremony.

► **Entrepreneurial Workshop Series & Data**

During Spring Semester 2021, SIIL hosted a series of free, one-hour Zoom workshops to teach students about the entrepreneurial process. With workshops like Cycles of a Business, How to Build a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), and Building Your Pitch Deck 101, students learned about the ins and outs of the business world and what is needed to successfully translate an idea into the marketplace. Guest speakers answered questions based on their area of expertise, providing students with a wide range of knowledge and insight into the different spheres of the entrepreneurial field.

During the Entrepreneurial Workshop Series, SIIL saw a growth in attendance by new students, primarily in the business and engineering disciplines. SIIL hopes to expand its reach across the CPP community, serving more students, faculty, and staff within different disciplines.



► **Giving Day**

SIIL participated in Giving Day 2021, primarily seeking funds for the Maker Studio space in the library. The space's equipment and student creations were put on display for potential investors to see. In all, \$1,672 was raised and will be put towards the Maker Studio expansion.



FUTURE ENDEAVORS



► Space Reopenings

SIIL has reopened its doors during the summer of 2021. Currently, the Innovation Orchard and the Maker Studio are open, and students can visit when they make a reservation. The iLab's reopening is to be determined; however, students will still have access to a wide range of equipment and will be able to watch certain equipment workshops through prerecorded videos on the main SIIL website.

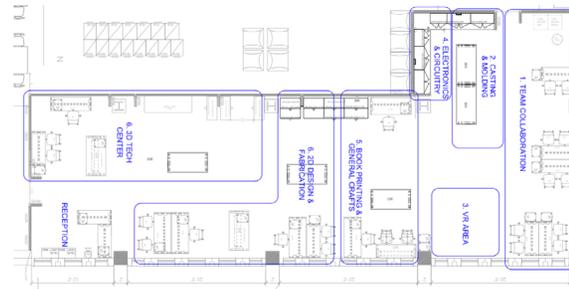


► Maker Studio Expansion

The Maker Studio will begin the process of expansion during Fall Semester 2021. Students will be able to enjoy new equipment that will widen creative opportunities and will have more workspace to develop their ideas.

► Innovation Kitchen

SIIL is developing a plan for the Innovation Kitchen, a space in the Lyle Center that will be open to students. A variety of cookware will be available to use for free, and students will be able to further develop cooking skills in a new, exciting, collaborative way within a predesigned iKitchen station. SIIL hopes to collaborate with ASI Basic Needs and the Poly Pantry to help solve the issue of food insecurity among CPP students through the Innovation Kitchen.



► The Bronco Innovation STEA2M Hub (The Hub)

The Hub will be a makerspace located in downtown Pomona facilitated by SIIL and the broader Pomona community. It will be open to local entrepreneurs, startups, small and family-owned businesses, and other universities. This 10,000 square foot incubator/makerspace will hold the necessary and unique resources, such as equipment and educational curriculum, that entrepreneurs, startups, and businesses may not be able to access otherwise. Patrons will be able to develop new skills and learn about the business world through The Hub, which will set them apart from their peers and allow them to market themselves and their product/service in unique and appealing ways.