Entrepreneurs selected for the first class of Ten50 were introduced at an event Feb. 1 in Huntington. Shown, from left, are Ten50 Director Bryan Shaw, Huntington Mayor Steve Williams, Rob Jenkins, Kirk Curry, Dr. Greg Crews, Mandy Curry, Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert, Nathan Davenport and RCBI Director & CEO Charlotte Weber.

Ten50 Accelerator introduces class of entrepreneurs
Entrepreneurs selected for Ten50, West Virginia's Business Accelerator, are spending the next three months learning how to turn their startup concepts into solid business operations.

Ten50 at RCBI drives innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting entrepreneurs and their early-stage companies. With the support of the Appalachian Regional Commission and other program partners, Ten50 is building a more diverse and stronger economy for West Virginia and the region. To provide participants with access to financing, business services and technical expertise from around the world, RCBI has partnered with the Global Accelerator Network (GAN), an organization founded in 2010 to link accelerators across the globe.

Only startups with ideas that have the greatest commercial potential were chosen from a field of nearly three dozen applicants for Ten50's inaugural class of entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs selected for the first class are Dr. Greg Crews, Mandy and Kirk Curry, and Rob Jenkins.
training tool in their arsenal: registered apprenticeships through Apprenticeship Works, the National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Partnership at the Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI). Funded with a major grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Apprenticeship Works assists manufacturers across the United States in establishing registered apprenticeships. Apprenticeship Works provides them with consulting services, access to online training and train-the-trainer services, as well as streamlined tracking and assessment tools. Each company customizes the RCBI model to fit its needs.

In 2017, Apprenticeship Works will launch its apprenticeship model for additive manufacturing/3D printing technician. Apprenticeship Works and partners America Makes, the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers and Tooling U-SME worked during the past year to develop the necessary elements of the additive manufacturing apprenticeship, including the required set of competencies for technicians.

Read more

SBA to sponsor free webinars for business owners


The webinars run about 30 minutes each. There is no cost but registration is required. For a full list of topics and to register for any of these events, visit the SBA web page here.

STEM award to help fund 3D printing camps for students

Financial support from the West Virginia Governor's office will support RCBI's popular summer camps, which encourage young people to explore opportunities in advanced manufacturing fields. RCBI was among 83 schools and organizations from across the state to receive funding through the Governor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Initiative.

The $3,000 in funding helps support 3D Printing Camps in summer 2017.

During the camps, students receive hands-on experience with design and 3D printing as they work in teams to design items that are 3D printed. Campers also explore manufacturing careers through tours of local industry sites. RCBI is the lead organization in West Virginia for Dream It. Do It., a program of the Manufacturing Institute that encourages young people to consider careers in manufacturing.

For information about RCBI's STEM efforts for youngsters, contact Becky Calwell at bcalwell@rcbi.org.
Calling all entrepreneurs: RCBI to host Startup Weekend

You've heard the buzz, but what, really, is an entrepreneur and how do you become one? Find out by joining Startup Weekend Huntington, April 21-23 at RCBI.

Startup Weekend is an intense, action-packed event where anyone can pitch ideas and work with a team to build a new business venture in just 54 hours. It's a coordinated effort to boost the number of startups in West Virginia, which has the lowest rate in the U.S., according to a study by the Kauffman Foundation.

Successful entrepreneurs and coaches will offer guidance and inspiration as participants collaborate to create successful ventures. The weekend culminates Sunday, April 23, when teams pitch their ideas to judges that includes representatives from Tri-State Angel Investment Group, area entrepreneurs and commercial bankers.

Startup Weekend Huntington is sponsored by Google, BB&T, RCBI, the Lewis College of Business at Marshall University and TechConnect West Virginia.

Tickets are $10 in advance and $25 the day of the event. Register here. For more information, contact Bryan Shaw at bshaw@rcbi.org.

Research Corporation to host grantsmanship workshops

The Marshall University Research Corporation has announce its schedule of professional development opportunities in grantsmanship, designed specifically for Marshall researchers, administrative staff and graduate students.

A list of the offerings is available here. All sessions are free and open to the university community, and will be on Wednesdays from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex, Room 4001.

Registration is strongly encouraged. Please register online here.

For more information about any of these sessions or to inquire about scheduling personalized grantsmanship workshops for your department or school, please call Lisa Daniels, 304-696-3368 or email lisa.daniels@marshall.edu.

Maker Vault wins prize in national makerspace contest
The Robert C. Byrd Institute's innovative makerspace won a national award from Bernzomatic, the leader in handheld torches. As a finalist in the Bernzomatic Find Your Fire Community Grants program, RCBI will receive $1,500 and $500 in Bernzomatic products for the Institute's makerspace, dubbed the Maker Vault.

"Bernzomatic products have been used in the Maker Vault since it opened," Jamie Cope, deputy director of RCBI. "Having additional Bernzomatic resources will provide more creative options for our users. The makerspace improvements will allow for a wider range of work to be completed. This is a real win for our making community that supported us through this contest."

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**THE VIDEO FILE**

**Robotics teams do battle in RCBI's VEX tournament**
Robotics teams from across the region competed in a state-qualifying VEX Robotics Competition Jan. 21. The event was sponsored by RCBI.

**Scenes from the first Startup Weekend WV at RCBI**
Explore the excitement of our very first Startup Weekend West Virginia.

**New 3D printer makes parts stronger than steel**
A just-unveiled machine from a company called Impossible Objects is one of a number of new manufacturing processes that could transform how America makes things, as well as what America makes.

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**Upcoming events**
March 2017
March 9 - Brown Bag Lunch: Lean Startups, RCBI Huntington, noon - 1 p.m.
March 16 - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Day at the Capitol

Call 800.469.7224 or email mfg@rcbi.org for more information.

ABOUT US
The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) provides leading-edge equipment, specialized training and staff expertise so entrepreneurs and manufacturers of all sizes can innovate, create jobs and thrive. Learn more at www.rcbi.org.