

Opinion Article

How universities can build an open platform for innovation and entrepreneurship for college students? Ignite the enthusiasm for creation, cultivate the team, and support key projects

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Abstract: Directly under the Ministry of Education, Xidian University (XDU) is a national key university featuring electronic and information science. XDU integrates innovation and entrepreneurship education into the whole process of college students' training combining the characteristics of electronic and information science. Through the three aspects of "Ignite the enthusiasm for creation, cultivate the team, and support key projects". XDU has cultivated the innovative spirit of college students and improved their entrepreneurial ability and has achieved outstanding results. This study aims to explore the scientific and efficient working system in the innovation and entrepreneurship education (IEE) of XDU. The case in this study is the project research findings of the Ministry of Education's 2021 ideological and political work in colleges and universities for the construction of young and middle-aged core teams.

Keywords: Xidian University; Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education; Higher education

1. Introduction

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Based in western China, XDU is a national key university featuring electronic and information science. XDU cultivates colleges students around the goal of "patriotic enterprising, innovative thinking, a leader with an international perspective". Through the three aspects of " Ignite the enthusiasm for creation, cultivate the team, and support key projects", XDU has cultivated the innovative spirit of college students. By optimizing the educational environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, XDU cultivates the innovative spirit of college students, helps them establish entrepreneurial awareness and improves their entrepreneurial ability (Ministry of education of the people's republic of China, 2021).

2. Ignite the Enthusiasm for Creation: Create a Platform for Science and Technology Competitions that College Students Participate in Widely, and Establish a Curriculum System that Covers all Students

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Since 1988, XDU has held the "Spark Cup" extracurricular academic and scientific and technological works competition for college students for 34 consecutive years, with more than 10,000 college students participating and submitting more than 3,000 works every year. XDU forms a good atmosphere for college students to take the initiative to practice and participate in innovation (Zhu, 2018). A large number of willing and talented students emerged. XDU unifies this competition with the innovation and entrepreneurship training program for college students, the national "Challenge Cup", and the national electronic design competition to form a hierarchical, progressive, and widely-participated technology competition platform. XDU also designed the "second transcript" system for college students, aiming to develop their abilities.

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XDU has opened nearly 100 courses related to innovation and entrepreneurship. It has hired more than 110 outstanding entrepreneurs as innovation and entrepreneurship mentors. About 66 joint laboratories have been founded with multinational education corporations, including Microsoft, IBM, Intel, SAP, etc. XDU has compiled 27 series of textbooks including "Entrepreneurship Management", and "Xidian Alumni Entrepreneurship Cases", which are represented by the well-known alumni Chuanzhi Liu. XDU integrates innovation and entrepreneurship education into the whole process of talent training, covering all college students (Zhao & Zhang, 2021).

3. Cultivate the Team: Organize Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training

Camps for College Students, and Set up School-enterprise Cooperation

Clubs

XDU actively explores a new mechanism for industry-university-research collaborative innovation and education. In accordance with the principle of combining "in-class and out-of-class, in-school and out-of-school, innovation and entrepreneurship", XDU organized a college student innovation and entrepreneurship training camp. One hundred students are selected for each training camp, and 8-credit courses are offered under the basic requirement of "cultivating science, emphasizing engineering, studying humanities, and integrating art". Under the guidance of innovation and entrepreneurship mentors, the training camp carried out innovation and entrepreneurship practice in the form of projects, which effectively promoted the improvement of college students' innovation and entrepreneurship ability (Wang & Zhang, 2020).

XDU, together with well-known enterprises and research institutes in the industry including Microsoft, Tencent, Huawei, and CETC Group Corporation, has

established 56 campus enterprise innovation and entrepreneurship clubs. XDU has established nearly 200 innovative and entrepreneurial teams, attracting more than 2,000 students to join. Under the guidance of innovation and entrepreneurship mentors, team members carry out the entrepreneurial practice by participating in enterprise product development, project management, etc. This not only helps companies improve their products but also effectively enhances the engineering practice capabilities of college students' innovation and entrepreneurship teams.

4. Support Key Projects: Set up the "Principal Fund" and "Creative Space" for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Support College Students' Entrepreneurial Projects with Market Prospects

Since 2014, XDU has focused on strengthening the support of college students' innovation and entrepreneurship and set up an "Innovation and Entrepreneurship President Fund" of 10 million yuan to especially fund entrepreneurial projects with a certain maturity and feasibility. This method helps the team go through the initial stage smoothly and supports its healthy and rapid growth.

At the same time, 37 national or ministerial-level laboratories and R&D centers have been opened to all college students. XDU has formulated and implemented a flexible study system for students who start their businesses. XDU integrates resources within the school by focusing on building a 3,000-square-meter "Creative space" with electronic information features. This space has become a gathering place for college students to help them generate ideas, manufacture products, and attract investment (Liu, Zhao & Zhu, 2020).

In the past three years, XDU has won 445 international awards, 543 national awards, and 4,280 provincial innovation and entrepreneurship competition awards in various innovation and entrepreneurship competitions. The school has more than

100 student entrepreneurial teams, and student entrepreneurial companies have re- 98
ceived a total of 300 million yuan in corporate and venture capital. It is worth 99
mentioning that college students not only actively participate in the process of sci- 100
entific and technological innovation, but also pay attention to the integration of 101
technology and culture. The research and development of "Huaxia Photo-Robot 102
Shadow Play" which participated in the "China Entrepreneurship Model" program 103
was reported by CCTV "News Network". 104

5. Prospect 105

In the future, XDU will continue to integrate the innovation and entrepreneur- 106
ship education of college students during the whole process of talent training, en- 107
courage college students to innovate and start businesses to make sure more col- 108
lege students become doers and entrepreneurs who take social responsibilities and 109
actively participate in the trend of the times (Cabero, 2019; Guachi, 2019). 110

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