



WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS *in STEM at CORNELL*

The W.E. Cornell program helps STEM PhDs and postdocs commercialize their innovations and overcome the challenges of leading a growing technology-based business. The program prepares participants for the future, whether they continue their entrepreneurial journeys or apply the entrepreneurial mindset to a different career path.

FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM

- Workshop series with topics focused on entrepreneurial readiness, customer discovery, pitching, fundraising, and more
- Experienced mentor pairings
- STEM founder speaker series
- Network building opportunities
- Opportunity to pitch to the W.E. Cornell Advisory Board
- Complementary conference participation



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Participants develop key foundation skills in entrepreneurship and emerge from the program with confidence and a broader network of role models, mentors, and like-minded entrepreneurs.

175

STEM PhDs and postdocs have participated in the program

23%

of participants continued their entrepreneurial journey by participating in programs like eLab, Kessler Fellows, the Johnson Summer Startup Accelerator, the BioEntrepreneurship Initiative, and Rev's Prototyping Hardware Accelerator

58

participants have taken part in the National Science Foundation's Innovation Corps (I-Corps)

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

KATHLEEN HEFFERON

Founder – Forte Protein, 2019 W.E. Cornell participant

Since participating in W.E. Cornell in 2019, Kathleen Hefferon, the founder of Forte Protein, was named a finalist in the Grow-NY Food and Agriculture Business Competition, joined Cornell's Center for Life Sciences Ventures, and is actively exploring an expansion of their headquarters to the Tech Farm in Geneva.



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I liked everything about the program, but what I loved most was the people. The community was unique and set the program apart from a regular entrepreneurship class.

– Joice Pranata, PhD in Food Science, W.E. Cornell 2022-23



CATIA DOMBAXE

*PhD Candidate, Biomedical Engineering,
W.E. Cornell 22-23*

Following participation in W.E. Cornell, Dombaxe enrolled in the IN I-Corps hybrid regional course, which allows her to explore customer discovery at the BIO International Convention in Boston, and will participate in the BioEntrepreneurship Initiative in 2023-24.

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W.E. Cornell equipped me with the tools and skills I needed to pursue my entrepreneurial journey. Thank you for propelling me to pursue my dreams and not be afraid of failure.

– Catia Dombaxe, PhD Candidate, Biomedical Engineering, WE Cornell 2022-23