


Startup incubator opens on the campus of Concordia University Texas



Attendees listen to the speakers at the opening for the Incubator for Innovation and Impact. (Courtesy Concordia University Texas)

By **Abby Bora**  | 9:05 am May 23, 2017

Concordia University Texas and Tech Ranch, a startup accelerator, celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting for its Incubator for Innovation and Impact May 18.

Concordia University Texas partnered with Tech Ranch to [create the space](#) for entrepreneurs and small business owners to begin and develop their companies, said Dr. Lynette Gillis, Concordia's associate vice president of academics, graduate and professional studies.

"[Tech Ranch] was a natural connection and partner for us because they have a similar goal of creating businesses that will positively impact the community," Gillis said.

University President and CEO Dr. Donald Christian; Kevin Koym, Tech Ranch founder and CEO; and Daniel Gonzales, director of product at venture firm G51, spoke during the grand opening. G51 is partnering with the incubator to mentor and consult start-ups. The company will also hold the incubator's shark tank and entrepreneur meet-up events on campus, she said.

The event's keynote speaker was Phunware co-founder and CEO Alan Knitowski, who started various companies and was a finalist for the Ernst and Young 2014 Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Central Texas.

Ulrich Hatcheu, a rising Concordia senior studying marketing, is a member of the incubator. His company, Epic ATX, offers services that include social media management and content marketing to businesses.

“For me, it’s getting a lot more networking for my startup,” Hatcheu said about using the space on campus. “You get very inspirational people in there.”

Members receive a network of mentors, interns and student employees, use of library and mailing resources, around-the-clock access to the incubator and more. The Incubator for Innovation and Impact is currently accepting applications for membership and mentorship, Gillis said.