

To: Senior Leadership Team
From: Steve Flaherty and Megan Ellis
Date: November 11, 2021
Re: Executive Summary: **Environmental and Entrepreneurial Innovation**

Steve Flaherty, Founder and CEO of [necoTECH](#), member of DEC OWU, and OWU adjunct professor of entrepreneurship is an integral part of the growth within the entrepreneurial ecosystem at OWU and the community. Three student interns have been hired by necoBrands and Steve has introduced students to previously private sources of technology through AFWERX, an United States Air Force program with the goal of fostering a culture of innovation. necoBrands has secured six (6) AFWERX contracts bringing revenue into OWU through a teaming agreement managed by DEC OWU. necoBrands focuses on CleanTech and environmental sustainability. He approached Megan with a concept to establish OWU as *the* CleanTech University, expanding OWU's footprint, elevating OWU's position in the higher education landscape, and expanding practical and experiential student opportunities.

The following initiatives are attainable and are expected to produce a significant return on investment through increased enrollment, strategic partnership, leveraged corporate partnerships and funding, and maximization of OWU talent.

Initiatives:

- 1. necoTECH OWU Center for Environmental Sustainability and Experiential Learning**
 - a. Center for hands-on learning, creation, start-up engagement, and community partnership
 - b. OWU becomes recognized as "CleanTech U"
 - c. Host of the Midwest [CleanTech Open](#) Workshops and Regional Events
- 2. OWU Zero Waste through [necoWaste](#), a channel of necoTECH**
 - a. Convert OWU to a near zero-waste campus by 2027 (five years after launch)
- 3. Ohio Wesleyan Sustainable Practices Center at [Evans Farm](#)**
 - a. OWU Educational partnership within the center offering credentialed programs, youth programs, satellite opportunities for Lifelong Learning Institute, and a powerful footprint in a crucial growing community within Olentangy School District which ranks highest in the state for test and graduation rates
- 4. Bishop Ventures: Enter a student, leave a CEO**
 - a. Engage students in acceleration entrepreneurial course
 - b. OWU invests in student and community startups for an equity percentage
- 5. Delaware Innovation and Startup Center at OWU (DISC-OWU)**
 - a. Step II for high-growth startups expanding out of DEC OWU
 - b. Space for beta testing, product development, and student engagement

Funding:

- **Certified Climate Bond (CCB)**
- **Federal Grant/Loan Opportunities**
- **Corporate Partnership Funding**

ASK: Permission to research, create sample mock ups, timelines, cost analysis, and report back to SLT.

Full report of these initiatives and funding opportunities are available on [THIS REPORT](#).