

The Development of nCiTE, An Academic Venture Studio by Dr. John DenBoer

Bridging Research, Innovation, and Real-World Impact in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Milwaukee, Wisconsin Nov 11, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - nCiTE, an innovative academic venture studio founded by Dr. [John DenBoer](#), a former Geriatric Neuropsychologist and Milwaukee-based innovation leader, is transforming how university research evolves into scalable, real-world ventures. This initiative marks a major advancement in Wisconsin's innovation ecosystem by combining higher education, clinical research, and entrepreneurship into one cohesive model focused on measurable impact.

From Research to Real Impact

The concept behind nCiTE grew from Dr. John DenBoer's two decades of experience at the crossroads of neuroscience, clinical psychology, and business. Having witnessed the challenges that prevent groundbreaking university discoveries from reaching the market, he set out to create a system that bridges that divide.

[nCiTE](#) operates as a structured, repeatable framework that supports venture creation through academic collaboration and disciplined innovation management. Its mission is to convert scientific discoveries into sustainable startups that improve lives and communities.

Collaboration Across Wisconsin

nCiTE is built on strong partnerships with leading institutions, including:

- **University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Research Foundation**
- **University of Wisconsin–Whitewater Innovation Center**
- **Concordia University’s healthcare and business programs**

This collaboration brings together students, professors, clinicians, and investors to identify high-potential intellectual property early, test business models efficiently, and guide startups through incubation—particularly in healthcare, aging, and neurotechnology.

“nCiTE is an engine for translational impact—where ideas are not only protected and studied but transformed into companies that improve lives,” says Dr. John DenBoer.

Unlike traditional incubators, nCiTE functions as an active co-founder, embedding its expert team directly into each startup’s development process. The model draws from Clayton Christensen’s innovation theory, emphasizing iterative testing, real-world feedback, and alignment with genuine market needs.

Supported by Wisconsin’s Innovation Network

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has been instrumental in supporting nCiTE through its Ignite Grant initiative. This grant funds collaborative programs that advance early-stage entrepreneurship and help promising ideas become viable ventures.

nCiTE builds upon Wisconsin’s growing entrepreneurial foundation, following in the footsteps of initiatives like the SE Wisconsin Founder Factory and early innovation programs led by Brian Walsh and Margaret Ramey. Rather than existing in isolation, nCiTE represents the natural evolution of Milwaukee’s expanding startup ecosystem.

Pioneering Ventures and Tangible Results

The first group of startups emerging from nCiTE demonstrates its mission in action. Early ventures include:

- **Digital therapeutics designed to support cognitive health**
- **AI-driven analytics for aging and longevity**
- **Sports-based neuroperformance training systems**

Each of these projects reflects Dr. DenBoer’s unique blend of neuroscience expertise, clinical insight, and business strategy. They embody nCiTE’s dedication to scalable growth, intellectual property development, and measurable impact in healthcare and longevity sectors.

Redefining Academia's Role in Entrepreneurship

One of the most forward-thinking elements of nCiTE is its shared ownership model. Instead of simply licensing research, nCiTE encourages universities to co-own, govern, and benefit from the startups they help develop.

This structure enables faculty and students to work directly alongside entrepreneurs, clinicians, and investors from idea generation through to market validation and funding. The program's "educate, innovate, accelerate" approach provides participants with practical, hands-on learning experiences that turn theory into real business success.

A Framework Built on Collaboration and Accountability

Operationally, nCiTE merges the structure of a venture-backed accelerator with the academic rigor of research institutions. An advisory board made up of leaders in healthcare, business, and innovation guides each startup's progress, assessing ventures based on both commercial potential and social impact.

As Dr. John DenBoer explains, "***Economic success and social good are not separate goals but parallel outcomes.***"

A Vision for Wisconsin's Future

Looking ahead, nCiTE aims to establish a statewide network of academic venture studios, each specializing in areas like aging, digital health, sustainability, and advanced manufacturing. These regional hubs will remain interconnected through shared data systems, performance metrics, and investment partnerships.

This vision positions Wisconsin—and Milwaukee in particular—as a national model for academic commercialization, rivaling established innovation centers like Boston and the Bay Area. The state's collaborative spirit and focus on practical results make it the ideal foundation for this new model of academic entrepreneurship.

About Dr. John DenBoer

Dr. John DenBoer is a former Geriatric Neuropsychologist, entrepreneur, and innovation strategist based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has a distinguished track record of combining neuroscience with leadership and entrepreneurship. Over the years, he has launched and led several ventures, including [Mental Edge Psychology](#), Inside-Out NeuroCoaching, and [Optimal Aging Consultants](#).

Through [nCiTE](#), Dr. DenBoer continues to advance his mission of connecting scientific research with ethical business innovation. His work promotes cognitive health, longevity, and sustainable innovation, setting a new standard for how research-driven entrepreneurship can benefit society.

Turning Ideas Into Impact

At its core, nCiTE holds that real innovation occurs when academia and entrepreneurship unite. By linking groundbreaking research with strategic business execution, nCiTE is not just building startups—it's shaping new industries and driving meaningful change for Wisconsin's future.



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