

Hello Fellow Bulldog!

My name is Wade Patterson and I am a Mississippi State University alumni. I want to tell you why I am starting the Bulldog Angel Network, what its mission is and extend an invitation to you to join me on this mission.

My career has taken me through C suite management at a public company, starting 4 businesses and having successful exits, raising funds from angel investors and venture capital. My love of entrepreneurship led me to become involved with the Mississippi State University Entrepreneurship and Outreach Center (MSU ECenter) starting in the early 2000's.

I have been impressed with what the MSU ECenter has accomplished over the years. Students have been learning how to be entrepreneurs and it was great experience for them to have as they graduated and accepted a job in their major.

In many ways, the MSU ECenter program was more advanced than most SEC schools, but as I re-engaged with the MSU ECenter in 2015, it struck me that we were not completing the mission as schools such as Stanford and Duke do. There was no investment path for students who had strong business plans and evolving businesses to raise funds to continue down the entrepreneurial path. This was clearly the right next step for the ECenter.

So, I worked with the ECenter's leadership team to develop a stage/gate process that leads students through the stages of starting a business and provides checklists for the things they need to accomplish along the way. They can only exit a stage when they have completed the checklist and been approved by the "gatekeepers" of each stage.

Our vision is to have an angel investment stage and a VC funding stage (if needed) for student companies as they progress. To accomplish this, there needs to be an MSU focused Angel Network in place to listen to pitches from these companies and for members of the Network to decide whether to invest. Once this Angel Network is up and running, we will work on attracting VC's for the later stages for companies that need that path. This will give the ECenter a complete path for launching companies and giving students the opportunities that students at other universities have and will advance the ECenter tremendously over other SEC schools.

Please note that angel investing is not a charity. We will be investing to make money. Making money this way takes strong due diligence, broad diversification of investments (15 or more active investments at once), patience (4+ years for exits) and caring about the companies and people we invest in to ensure they are being mentored and advised by people with experience and good judgement. There will be opportunities for you to mentor or serve on advisory boards but if you don't have the time, that is not a problem.

So, I am launching the Bulldog Angel Network with the mission to provide Bulldog Angel Network members the opportunity to make a good return on their investment while providing seed round funding to early stage companies that are majority owned by Mississippi State students, faculty, or alumni. We want to provide opportunity to these Bulldog entrepreneurs that they otherwise would not have.

I hope you will join me on this mission!

Wade Patterson

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Note: Must meet accredited investor status based on Securities and Exchange Commission definition of earned income that exceeded \$200,000 (or \$300,000 together with a spouse) in each of the prior two years, and reasonably expects the same for the current year, OR has a net worth over \$1 million, either alone or together with a spouse (excluding the value of the person's primary residence).