Currently, Yale’s entrepreneurial activity and startup workflow has soared recently with the increased emphasis on STEM initiatives, with the building of the CEID, the YEI, and other institutions that drive this innovative culture to spread like wildfire across the student population. And this only the start – in decades to come with the acceleration of global capital and resources, coupled with critical world problems and the emphasis on entrepreneurship, more and more students will be compelled to pursue high-lead projects. Students are working on exciting projects but don’t have centralized access to the resources they need, whether it’s peer collaboration, publicity, or venture funding.

I propose a simple solution that doesn’t exist to address these needs: a centralized database of student entrepreneurs, their venture, and relevant information. Through a simple UI, Yale student entrepreneurs can post their information and Yale students can access this information, view the projects their peers are working on, and connect with the founders if interests align. Similarly, an idea is that this portal will be open to alumni who can view what students are working on, and choose to mentor and/or fund projects they find interesting.

Currently there are websites like Angel List that support these functions for general startups, but no university-centric startup networking sites to my knowledge that focus on nurturing and promoting entrepreneurship within the school. Students currently have to post through complex email threads to find peer collaborators or
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do extensive research to find opportunities for their ideas. This application will eliminate these inefficiencies and provide an organic system to connect resources with ideas in the Yale community.

I hope to establish the groundwork for this application, and have at least some proof of concept ready by the end of the term.

There are two major steps in this project. (1) The collection of all the relevant data from student entrepreneurs. (2) Designing and building a sleek and scalable website to host this information.

The goal is for this digital entrepreneurial hub to stimulate more innovative activity on campus and provide an organized, simple interface for users. On a larger scale, I envision this application generating value in the college startup space, pairing the energy and creativity of students with resources to ultimately maximize the productivity and potential of student ambitions.

And this is the legacy I hope to leave for the Yale and student community.