



WWEI

Women in Entrepreneurship Institute

 **DEPAUL UNIVERSITY**
DRIEHAUS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**COLEMAN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CENTER**

Our Mission

Launched in 2018, the mission of the Women in Entrepreneurship Institute (WEI) is to support women entrepreneurs through academic research and programs that invest in the success and sustainability of women-owned businesses.

We are the first comprehensive institute integrating academic learning, research, incubation, funding, and public policy advocacy for women business founders.

An early adopter of entrepreneurship, DePaul has the opportunity to develop research and programming that will offer much-needed support for emerging women entrepreneurs and help educate, connect, support and grow women-owned businesses.



Why We Exist

WEI

- **Female founders face obstacles** such as securing financing, gender bias, lack of confidence, limited mentorship, and lack of training to see their ideas to fruition.
- **Only 2%** of venture capital funding was awarded to women-led companies, despite women owning 38% of businesses in the country.
- **114% is the growth rate for women-owned businesses nationally**, compared to 44% for all businesses 1997-2017.
- **Less than .00006%** of venture capital funded women of color.
- **LatinX women received 0.4%** of \$400 billion in venture capital funding between 2009 and 2017, and only 58 LatinX women have ever raised over \$1 million in venture funding
- **Illinois is in the lowest 20%** of U.S. states when it comes to the economic clout of women-owned businesses in the state.
- **Less than 2%** of women owned businesses reach \$1M in revenue.

Learn more at go.depaul.edu/WEI

Reasons We're Different



ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Academic courses that are part of DePaul's highly ranked entrepreneurship program, including the new course Women Entrepreneurs.

BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

The annual pitch competition awards merit-based funding to women-led businesses involved in the WEI.

STARTUP INCUBATOR WORKSPACE

The unique cohort-based incubator serves DePaul students and alumni and provides a co-working space within the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center.

FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW

The annual Fellowship supports research in entrepreneurship and gender at DePaul.

ENDOWED CHAIR IN WOMEN AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The chair will offer research leadership, student engagement and curricular support for entrepreneurship and gender at DePaul.

WEI

WEI FOUNDING 40

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WEI

Women in Entrepreneurship Institute

DePaul University has been a leader in Entrepreneurship since 1982. DePaul has been consistently ranked in the top 20 graduate and undergraduate Entrepreneurship programs in the country. In the past decade, DePaul alumni have started 351 businesses; 95.4% of those are still in business, with \$276,243,000 funding raised.

WEI believes that providing targeted support to female founders will increase job creation and economic growth in Chicago and beyond.



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