The Blast Furnace is Pitt’s student accelerator, launched in 2015, to provide access to mentor networks, a co-working space, and a rich curriculum for student startups to prepare them to create and grow their business. The Blast Furnace is open to Pitt students from across the university at all levels who have a desire to be entrepreneurial, create new companies and receive hands-on learning.

**Hall of Fame**

**HiBersense**  https://hibersense.com/
HiBersense, the winner of the first cohort, was invited to the inaugural University Startup’s Demo Day at Congress in Washington D.C. earlier last fall. HiBersense pitched at Alpha Lab’s Demo Day in May 2017.

**uTranslated**  https://www.utranslated.com/
The winner of the second cohort, uTranslated, completed the super-selective AlphaLab accelerator in 2016. It was honored as an NCET2 Best University Startup in Washington D.C. this spring and the founders were recipients of this year’s Pitt Student Innovator award.

**The Aquaponics Project**
The winner of the third cohort, AquaCloud, last year demonstrated its aquaponics technology in downtown Pittsburgh. The team recently won $35,000 in project funding during the 10th Annual Ford College Community Challenge, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

**Aeronics**  https://www.aeronicssinc.com/
The winner of the fourth cohort, Aeronics, was also named NCET2 Best University Startup in Washington D.C. and won second place at Princeton University’s TigerLaunch Finals competition. This summer founders participated in Quake, a NYC-based accelerator and received further funding.

**Best4Baby**  https://www.best4baby.us/
The winner of the fifth cohort, Best4Baby provides business support for doulas, who give physical and educational support to pregnant women before, during and after birth.

**Thank You**

We would especially like to thank all the volunteer mentors for their involvement with the Blast Furnace. Without them, none of this would be possible.

We sincerely thank others who have contributed their time to this worthwhile project. The guest speakers that have presented and provided guidance and support to the startups, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs) who help coordinate the program.

We would also like to thank the judges who have supported us at each Demo Day. Lastly, we thank you, the audience for attending this event and for your support to the Blast Furnace student accelerator.

**Judges**

Max Polec  THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Sharon Alvarez  KATZ UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH JOSEPH M. KATZ GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Bobby Zappala  ASCENDER

Ilana Diamond  alphalab gear

Randy Eager  UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH INNOVATION INSTITUTE

@PITTINNOVATES
Welcome to Demo Day Cohort 6! Thanks for being here to celebrate our student entrepreneurs. It is a culmination of our 8-week accelerator program and will begin with the startups having just 60 seconds to tell us about their idea. With $4,000 and the Blast Furnace Cup on the line the startups mean business!

Keynote Speaker
5:05 p.m.
Barry Rabkin serves as Chief Marketing Officer of Identified Technologies, President of Hackers & Founders - Pittsburgh Chapter, Guest Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University and strategist at Barry Brands Consulting. He is on a mission to transform Pittsburgh from the “City of Steel” to the “City of Startups.”

Skip Car Round
5:20 p.m.
The 60-second pitch is a grueling task for a startup: think of it as an elevator pitch. Presenters must pique your interest while condensing the market opportunity and revenue model for their business.

Fan Favorite Voting
5:45 p.m.
Pull out your phones and vote for your favorite startup after the 60-second pitches! The site to vote will be displayed on the screen and the team voted by the audience will move to the the Molten Iron Round.

Molten Iron Round
6:00 p.m.
The top 5 startups will present a 3-minute pitch for the final round voted on by the judges. Here the teams will highlight their solution for the problem they are trying to solve and have a 3-minute Q&A with the judges. You will learn more about their business model and their passion. They also have an opportunity to include what their “next steps” are and what they need to move forward.

Awards Ceremony
6:45 p.m.
The first-place winner of Demo Day will be presented with a big check and the other winners will be recognized!

Cohort 6
Vaishali Shetty
Helping connect Indian philanthropists and the commercialization of medical products in research institutes

City Charge
Adrian Reitars
A low cost charging solution for electric vehicles in densely populated areas

Cottage Bars
Arthur Kharzamanov
Nutritious grab and go bars packed with protein and calcium

OssSolve
Jared Raszewski & Emelyn Jaros
A packaging solution for powdered drink mixes

HiLight
Ryan Cooley & Hunter D’Anieri
A service that allows event hosts to seamlessly market and connect with fans via streaming services

Shruthi Muralidharan
Helping people monitor and balance their hormones from home

Vaidurya Paladu
Helping navigate people through buildings

Investing Young
Jack Glasl & Mamadou Ndiaye Jr.
Applying experiential learning and game principles to help build financially literate future generations

Kenyan Kitchen
Kasandi Mulaa
America’s first Kenyan Food casual dining experience

William Starr
Providing business intelligence and finance management tools for small teams and groups

Veysel Gokbel
An on-demand online proofreading and editing service

Vaishali Patel
Assisting naturopathic doctors develop integrative treatment plans

Benjamin Schilling
A simple, free-to-returner service specializing in the responsible disposal of unused and unwanted prescription medication.

Mohamed Morsy
Enhancing battery performance throughout the day

Super Swipe - Amanda McKenna
Enhancing the convenience of university cafeterias with meal delivery

Alec Anselmo
A game of soccer skill and technique

Brant Orlowski
Addresses mess, infection and difficulty removing for disposal

The Ideal Can