

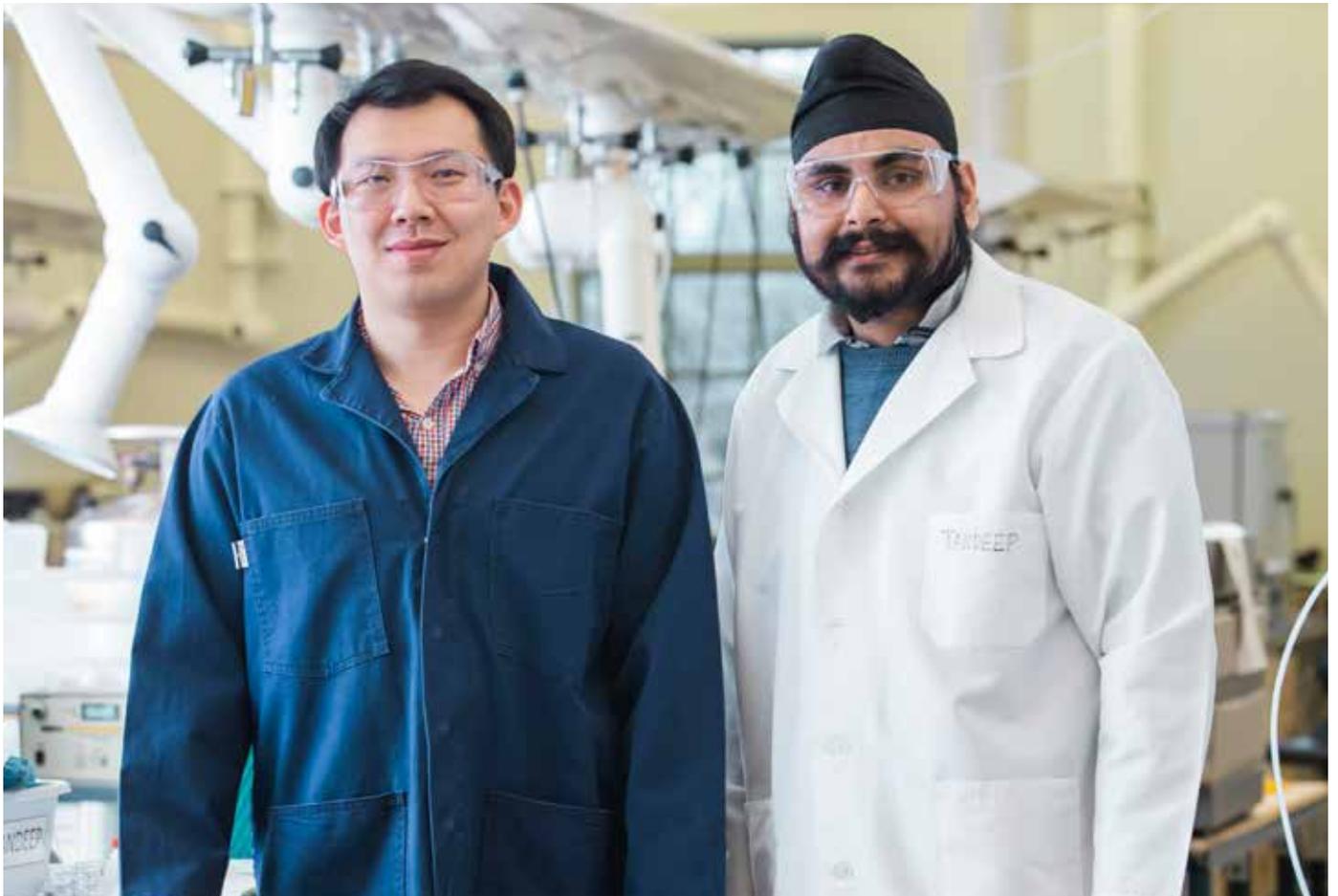
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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MCKELVEY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
**STRATEGIC PLAN TO ACHIEVE LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXCELLENCE**

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CULTURE, OPERATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

# Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Spirit



# Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Spirit

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### **Executive Summary**

The faculty, students, and alumni of SEAS have a long and rich history of entrepreneurial contributions through the development of successful products and companies. Our goal is to build on this history and create an entrepreneurial culture that embraces “making by doing” in order to raise our visibility as one of the top 10 engineering schools for entrepreneurship. Exposing students to the full spectrum of entrepreneurship and teaching them the value of an entrepreneurial mindset throughout the curricula will position them to approach innovation differently. Students will be able to identify or create opportunities and then leverage those opportunities to drive positive social change and to solve the world’s biggest challenges. Helping the faculty to turn innovation into reality by transferring technology from the lab to society will also contribute toward solving some of the world’s most significant needs and growing the economy.

Our Engineering faculty and students have the opportunity to leverage some of the best and unique accelerator programs and organizations in the region since funding is made available exclusively to WashU’s constituents. The unique ecosystem in St. Louis should help us to attract more entrepreneurial faculty and students.

The demand for medical devices and software that connect to health-care IT systems will continue to grow during the next several years. In St. Louis alone, at least 33 startups are already developing technologies around the Internet of Medical Technologies (IoMT), and one of the region’s largest health-care providers, Mercy, is dedicating an entirely new facility to virtual care. St. Louis has the unique opportunity to become a national leader in IoMT due to the strength and breadth of its health-care institutions: universities (WashU, SLU, UMSL), hospitals and health-care systems (BJC HealthCare, SSM, Mercy, the St. Louis VA), and health-care companies (Express Scripts and Centene, among others). With Cortex serving as a catalyst for the initiative, WashU Engineering will play a major role to make St. Louis a global hub for IoMT through a dedicated, collaborative effort that will improve patient care and health outcomes and to grow the economy through new IoMT startups connected to Engineering at WashU.

To position SEAS for strategic growth in entrepreneurship, there needs to be expansion in the number of faculty members actively starting companies and commercializing technology from 10% to 20%; a guarantee that every Engineering student has the requisite opportunities for entrepreneurial experience; appointment of Professors of the Practice with entrepreneurial experience and create an Entrepreneurs in Residence program within the Engineering school.