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PRESS RELEASE

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SIE lecturer Greg Payton, a former executive with PNC Bank and a Rowan alumnus, will oversee the new grant program, which in addition to funding will provide mentoring, workshops and guest speakers.

“It’s a real opportunity to make a difference in the community and to help students start their own business,” Payton said.

Dr. Monika Williams Shealey, senior vice president for Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, said the new fund is vital on two fronts.

“The Startup Opportunity Fund builds on Rowan University’s long-time commitment to underrepresented students and will provide vital resources to build sustainable businesses,” she said.

Founded this year, the SIE developed out of the long-running Rowan Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship within the RCB and the Startup Opportunity Fund program is one of its first ventures.

Funding through it is available to all first-generation students and students of color, including those graduating in the spring of 2023 or in the 12 months prior. Open to individual and group applicants, all Rowan students, including those in Rowan’s medical schools, affiliated community colleges and recent graduates may apply.

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend one of the fund’s upcoming information sessions. [Learn more.](#)

Please help support aspiring entrepreneurs through the Startup Opportunity Fund or by contacting Joe Delgado, Sr., Director of Development, at delgadoj@rowan.edu.