



Novel Model to Foster Technology Base Entrepreneurship through the Doctorate Spinoff Program

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Abstract

Efforts have been made by Universities to correlate knowledge with entrepreneurship activities to enhance the educational experience of students and achieve success. The creation of intellectual property is an important factor of these entrepreneurship activities. Throughout the past six years ITESM has been the Institution with the largest number of patents granted to a University in Mexico. The mission of ITESM has been not only to generate knowledge, technology, and expertise but rather deal with the convergence of its development and further capitalization. In response to this objective, academic programs and specific projects have surfaced in academic areas, such as “The Sphere of Innovation Program”, “The Doctorate Spinoff Program”, “Entrepreneurship Family Program”, “Technology Transfer Innovation Park (PIT)” among others. These programs accompany the students along their undergraduate and/or postgraduate education, in search of technology transfer that will promote a new nation’s competitive advantage. On this regard, “The Doctorate Spinoff Program” can be highlighted due to the strategic efforts on technology based entrepreneurship, encouraging students to enrich their doctoral research with the creation of new ventures. These efforts have influence positively the process of technology transfer from the University to startups. ITESM exhibits a great commitment to guide, protect and mobilize the production of scientific and technological knowledge to the productive sector, the ability to enrich innovation and to create mechanisms that increase Mexican competitiveness through highly qualified job creation, add value to the industrial environment and toss young people as entrepreneurs. The aim of this paper is to present the structure and results to date of the Doctorate Spinoff Program at ITESM, presenting the evolution, challenges and threats of this program and proposes a novel model to deal with those difficulties.