

VHA Innovation Ecosystem eBook
Quarterly Portfolio
SPECIAL EDITION
An Aligned Innovation Ecosystem



**Innovators
Network**



The VHA Innovation Ecosystem

We are pleased to re-release the revamped VHA Innovation Program quarterly eBook as a product of the VHA Innovation Ecosystem. What does this mean? VA and VHA house numerous program offices and initiatives that support and advance innovation throughout the organization. In an effort to align interests and improve the efficiency of innovation resources, all three branches have begun collaborating on their efforts. The VHA Innovation Ecosystem Quarterly eBook is just one example of the accomplishments from the recent collaboration.

In addition, the VHA Innovation Program Innovation Station Blog is also transforming into a new combined blog. More information about the new blog is to come!



The core VHA Innovation Ecosystem

An Introduction

To modernize and enhance the customer experience for Veterans and their families, VA fosters Department-wide innovations that can quickly cultivate an idea from discovery to evaluation, to ultimately become implemented nationwide. Ideas within the core innovation ecosystem are generated through the VA Innovators Network, transformed into reality by the VHA Innovation Program, and are then disseminated throughout VA by the Diffusion of Excellence Initiative.



VHA Innovation Program

- Established 2009
- Execution of health care innovations from concept to enterprise deployment
- VHA Employee Innovation Competition
- Industry Challenges
- Future Technology Lab (provides a safe harbor development environment)

VA Innovators Network

- Established 2015
- Develops front-line innovators
- Spark-Seed-Spread Competition
- Close collaboration with Diffusion of Excellence to include VA Innovation Days and operational alignment



Diffusion of Excellence Initiative

- Established 2015
- Develops front line “implementers” Gold Status Fellows
- VHA Shark Tank Competition
- Collaborated with Innovators Network to write and publish “Best Care Everywhere”



Recent Ecosystem Events

Innovators Network Boot Camp and Training

Innovators Network recently finalized their selection of participants during the latest round of Spark Seed Spread investments. These individuals were invited to the Innovators Network Boot Camp at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health in Washington, D.C., in May. The event included attendees from all 33 Innovators Network sites, internal innovation stakeholders, and external partners, who have served as mentors and speakers.

Participants discussed the mission and goals of Innovators Network and participated in a series of trainings to equip them with best practices for executing, marketing, and demonstrating the value of their practice. Additional pitching sessions offered investees the opportunity to practice marketing their investment and receive valuable feedback from evaluators and the opportunity to network with subject matter experts for further guidance to drive their innovation forward.

The days following Boot Camp were designed for the Innovation Specialists to conduct their quarterly training, which included portfolio management, a group discussion on Spark Seed Spread lessons learned, and breakout sessions on topics ranging from information systems to human-centered design, and 3D printing. Both events also featured well-received speakers from Amazon Web Services.

The next big event for the Innovators Network and the entire Ecosystem is Demo Day 2018, coming up in August 2018!



Attendees at the Innovators Network Boot Camp at the Innovation Ecosystem Summit at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health, in Washington, D.C.



Trainees at the Innovation Specialist Training at the Innovation Ecosystem Summit at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health, in Washington, D.C.



Innovation Ecosystem Summit

During the same week as the Innovators Network Boot Camp and Innovation Specialist Training, a broad group of innovation-related participants came together for the third quarterly VHA Innovation Ecosystem Summit. Participants engaged in discussions ranging from past, present, and future states of innovation to aligning innovation with modernization efforts. Participants included Tech Transfer, Systems Redesign, HSR&D, Center for Compassionate Care, Specialty Care Centers for Innovation, the Office of Rural Health and others.

The event also held several breakout working sessions between groups to develop operating procedures, communications materials, and establish protocols. [Click here](#) to see photos of the event on Twitter.



Allison Amrhein presents at the third quarterly Innovation Ecosystem Summit at Booz Allen Hamilton's Innovation Center.



Ryan Vega presents at the third quarterly Innovation Ecosystem Summit at Booz Allen Hamilton's Innovation Center.

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