



The Keenan Center: A Community Hub of Connection, Networking, and Talent

JANUARY - JUNE 2026

Keenan Center Report



 **KEENAN**
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY



The Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity is focused on integrating an entrepreneurial mindset into curriculum and business practices across Central New York. Named for Tim and Kathleen (Fehlan) Keenan '81, it seeks to advance the economy by utilizing personal enterprise to promote economic development and combat poverty. The Center elevates the profile of both Le Moyne College and the Madden College of Business and Economics in the regional and global marketplace and plays a critical role in the upstate New York entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Keenan Team

The dedicated Keenan Center Team continues to serve as talented connectors, building collaborative and creative relationships with innovative partners across New York State. With the help of its 12 work-study students and 10 Keenan Coaches, the Keenan Center supports a wide range of innovative programming, educational initiatives, and community-building opportunities, expanding its reach and impact.



MIKE D'EREDITA

Director



JACKI BOULTER

Associate Director, DiLaura Inspiration and Design Lab



JAMES SHOMAR

Assistant Director



MEAGHAN SAMERE

Keenan Center Coordinator

Congratulations to our graduating senior work-study students. The Keenan Center Community is honored to have been part of your journey. Thank you for all of your contributions over the past four years!



Payton Hirsch, Madyson Sebastian, Work-Study Team Leader Npenda Fofana, and John Greulich

A Shared Vision for the Future of CNY: Hueber-Breuer's Long-Time Partnership with the Keenan Center

Since its inception, Hueber-Breuer has been an enthusiastic advocate for the Keenan Center. Driven by a shared belief in investing in people early, the Central New York-based construction company realized early on that the Center's values aligned closely with its own.

"There are a lot of dichotomies to what we do as a business and as an industry: office versus site, young versus old, innovation versus traditional methods," says Hueber-Breuer President Andy Breuer. "We are uniquely positioned to bridge these gaps, and with the Keenan Center, we saw an opportunity to support something to address these challenges in a way that wasn't just academic, but practical and forward-looking, and we wanted to be part of that."

Hueber-Breuer cites the Keenan Center's commitment to creating an environment where students learn to think, lead, create, and solve problems as one of the main reasons it continues to collaborate with the Center. Specifically, Keenan's development of a talent pipeline and giving young people in Central New York reasons to stay and grow their business ideas are closely related to the company's core values.

"At Hueber-Breuer, we see real value in developing people who are willing to think differently, take initiative, and contribute in meaningful ways. The construction industry is notoriously slow to adopt



HUEBER BREUER

A LEGACY OF CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS

innovation, and yet—like in many industries—innovation is the key to recruitment of young talent," says Breuer. "The Keenan Center is helping to grow that type of talent locally, and that's critical not just for individual success, but for the long-term strength of our community and workforce."

By building a pipeline of innovative talent in Central New York, Breuer believes the Keenan Center is investing in the region in a tangible way: by creating an ecosystem where people have the tools and support they need to succeed. And, he notes, partnerships across industries are essential for success.

"We can't operate in silos anymore. When education and industry are aligned, students gain real-world exposure, and businesses gain insight into emerging talent and new ways of thinking. That connection bridges the gap between learning and doing," says Breuer. "In a region like ours, those partnerships are a key piece of building a stronger workforce, supporting local businesses, and ultimately creating more opportunity across the board."

"With the Keenan Center, we saw an opportunity to support something that wasn't just academic, but practical and forward-looking, and we wanted to be part of that." - Andy Breuer



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INTRODUCTION

Letter from the Director

The past six months have been a period of remarkable growth and validation for the Keenan Center.

Our impact has broadened and deepened, bolstered by the unwavering commitment of community partners and supporters who believe in our mission. The metrics summarized on Page 8 of this report provide objective evidence of the Keenan Center's role as a tangible touchstone in Central New York's entrepreneurial, innovative, and creative ecosystem. It has been an incredible journey thus far!

The pivotal role our partners play in this success cannot be overstated. We are especially grateful for the ongoing generosity of our inaugural community sponsor, Hueber-Breuer Construction, whose commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial mindset across Central New York remains a cornerstone of our efforts. Similarly, the Keenan/ShIPLEY Innovation Studio has achieved its first-year goals for corporate support, attracting stellar student talent. We owe a debt of gratitude to our inaugural corporate supporters, Pelco

Component Technologies and North East Rescue Vehicles Inc. (NERV); their backing has allowed our interns to deliver results that have already garnered significant praise from the corporate community. Furthermore, NUAIR continues to be a visionary and steadfast partner in our mission to educate the next generation of drone aviators.

Dolphin Tank 10 reached new heights this season, thanks to the dynamic partnership we've forged with WCNY PBS. A 30-minute episode, which will be distributed across the WCNY PBS network to over 20,000 members, will amplify our work to a regional audience. This milestone has been made possible by the tireless work of our student entrepreneurs, the dedicated support of our sponsors who provide funding and mentorship, and—for the first time—our show sponsors: CADimensions, Impel AI, and McNeil & Co.

Looking toward the future, our new partnership with CNY Robotics and Science is already cultivating a new generation of innovators, with support from our critical campus partnership with ERIE 21 and various community contributors. The talent and



'can-do' spirit of these innovators were on full display at this year's Maker Faire, where thousands from across Upstate New York engaged with the next wave of creative problem-solvers. Over 500 student creations were distributed to attendees who explored the innovators' real-life working version of Minecraft.

This report is a moment to reflect on what we have achieved together as a community, and how we have built a model that impacts entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity across the lifespan in Central New York.

We look forward to continuing this momentum!

Mike D'Eredita '92
Director

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) offer insight into the Keenan Center's progress toward our strategic goals, which continue to show our leadership in innovation and growth in Central New York and beyond.

Name	Description	Jan 24	Jul 24	Jan 25	Jul 25	Jan 26	Jul 26
Entrepreneurship							
Entrepreneurial Activity	Number of entrepreneurs, investors, and ecosystem collaborators engaged through meetings, coaching sessions, introductions, and small-group interactions.	64	140	127	272	257	349
Dolphin Tank Outcomes	Total dollars raised or earned by Dolphin Tank teams since Spring 2019.	\$1.9 M	\$2.5 M	\$3.0 M	\$3.6 M	\$4.4 M	\$5.3 M
Event Attendance	Number of individuals who attended Keenan Center–organized or sponsored events.	78	1,422	876	975	1,044	1,331
Corporate Sponsors	Total dollars contributed by corporate sponsors.	\$145,000		\$155,000		\$225,610	
CRM Entities	Number of unique individuals or entities visiting the Keenan Center, tracked in the CRM system since October 2023.	127	333	579	797	801	1,023
Education							
Student Enrollment and Programming	Number of students enrolled in Keenan Center–supported courses and programs, including ENI courses and work-study positions.	65	76	44	96	55	107
Entrepreneurial Coaching Hours	Total hours of coaching and instruction provided to individuals and teams on business development, pitch refinement, and venture growth.	--	--	--	557	215	464
STEAM Programming Hours	Total instructional hours delivered through STEAM programs.	4,513	1,043	3,524	861	2,823	713
STEAM Students	Number of students across STEAM programs.	353	586	146	280	318	74
Drone Programming Hours	Total instructional and applied flight hours delivered through drone education programming.	--	654	550	1,401	537	861
Drone Students	Number of students participating in drone education programs.	--	25	45	64	33	53
Program Participation (Excluding U-grads)	Total combined coaching and student engagement hours across programs, excluding undergraduate coursework.	4,757	1,748	4,160	2,819	3,575	2,038
Maker Institute							
Number of Maker Projects	Number of projects completed or in progress within the DiLaura Lab.	45	60	225	190	490	494

KPIs AND METRICS

Three-Year Review

Over the last three years, the Keenan Center has expanded its reach, partnerships, and impact throughout Central New York and beyond. Over 1,000 entities and community members now populate our CRM. Each contact has firsthand experience with the Keenan Center and is only a phone call away.



1,209

Entrepreneurs
Coached



5,726

Event
Attendees



\$525,610

Corporate
Support



443

ENI Coursework and
Work-Study Students



1,757

STEAM Education
Students



220

Drone Education
Students



1,504

DiLaura Inspiration and
Design Lab Projects



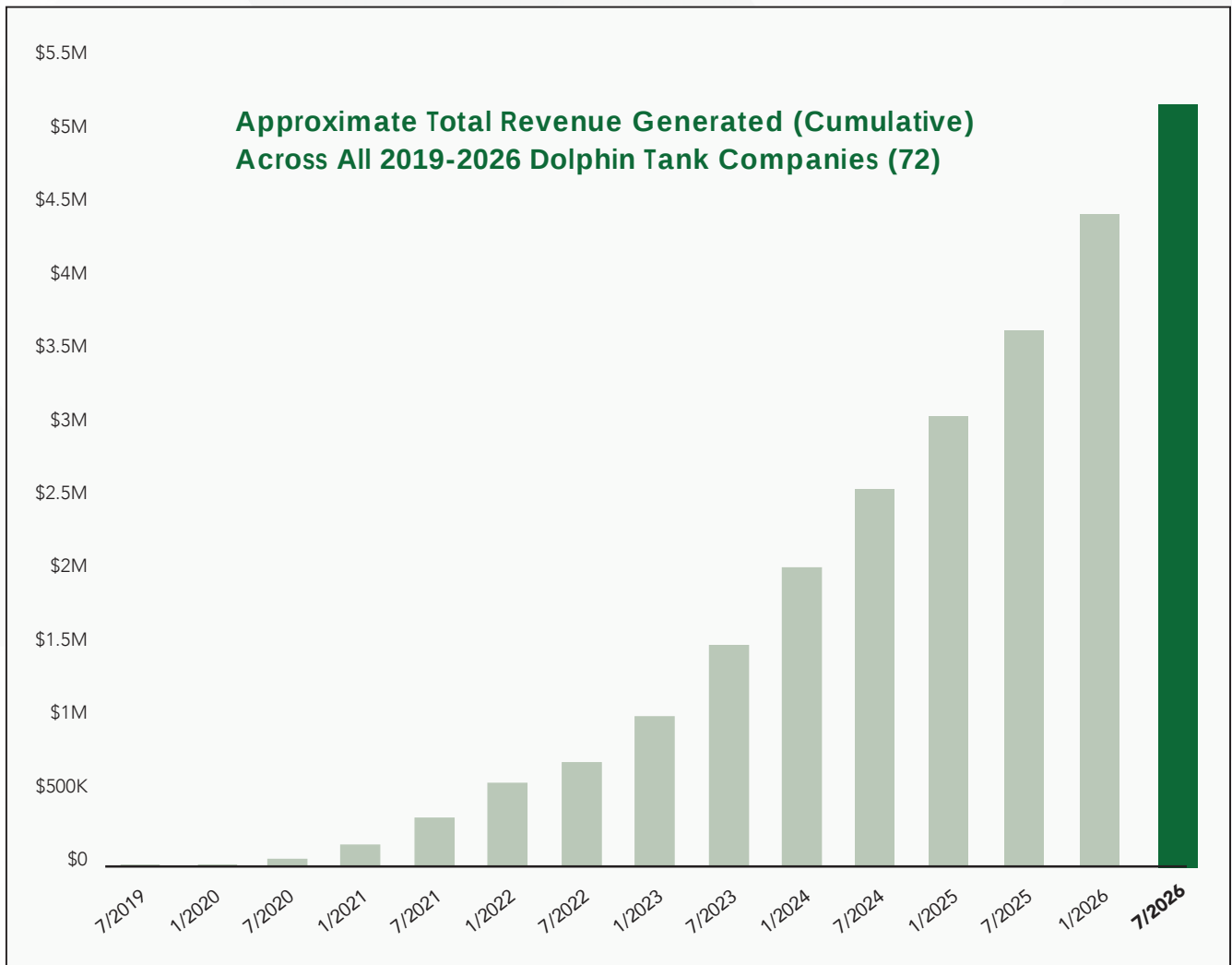
1,000+

Community Members, Entrepreneurs, and
Organizations Connected Through the Keenan Network

KPIs AND METRICS

Dolphin Tank Metrics

This spring, Dolphin Tank celebrated its 10th anniversary. To date, the Dolphin Tank teams have collectively generated approximately \$5.3 million in revenues from a total award amount of \$370,000. Of these entrepreneurs, 42 have built businesses that have generated revenue.



Dolphin Tank winners have raised or earned, through investment or sale of a company,

\$5.3M

(cumulatively) to date.

Total funds
distributed to date

\$370K

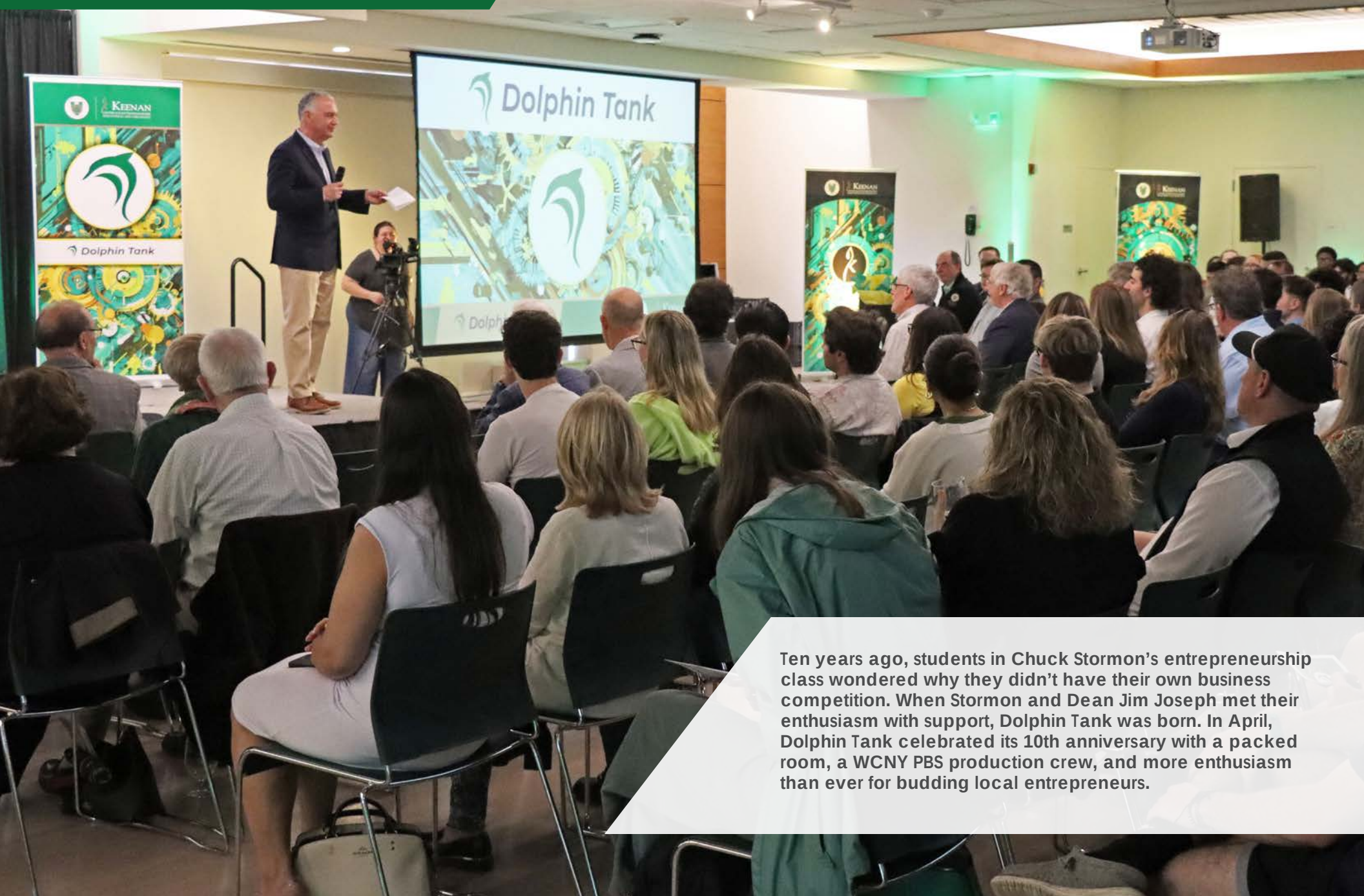
Companies that
reached sales
(out of 72)

42

\$0-\$500K

Current range of
annual revenues

**CELEBRATING THE 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DOLPHIN TANK**



Ten years ago, students in Chuck Stormon's entrepreneurship class wondered why they didn't have their own business competition. When Stormon and Dean Jim Joseph met their enthusiasm with support, Dolphin Tank was born. In April, Dolphin Tank celebrated its 10th anniversary with a packed room, a WCNY PBS production crew, and more enthusiasm than ever for budding local entrepreneurs.

Dolphin Tank 10: *Better Than Ever*

When students took the stage this April for the 10th anniversary of Dolphin Tank, the competition looked very different than it did just a decade ago.

For starters, the nine student participants were competing for a total of \$50,000 to grow their businesses, a far cry from the initial prize of \$1,000 in 2017. As they made their pitches, they faced a packed audience in Le Moyne's James Commons rather than a classroom of their peers, as participants did at the inaugural event. And as they strutted the stage, WCNY PBS cameras captured their pitches for a future TV broadcast this summer—a first-ever for the competition.

"It's now a pillar event for Le Moyne and businesses in our region," says Keenan Center Assistant Director James Shomar. "It's an ecosystem for a night: sponsors, angel investors, entrepreneurs on stage, local small businesses, service providers, and the media. It's an interesting coalescence of the community rallying behind the next generation of entrepreneurs."



90+
STUDENT
ENTREPRENEURS
SINCE 2017



\$370K+
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
TO DATE



\$5.3M
GENERATED BY DT WINNERS
THROUGH INVESTMENT OR
SALE OF A COMPANY TO DATE

This year also marked the first time a student from the Golisano Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship in Rochester, New York, participated in Dolphin Tank, and its representative, Nic Figler, founder of Figs Finest Detailing, came away the top earner of the night.



Nic Figler, founder of Figs Finest Detailing, was the top earner of Dolphin Tank 10.

"Nic's personality totally won the day," said Shomar. "His energy and optimism are contagious."

Nic made history at the 2026 Dolphin Tank event by being the first contestant ever to receive a judge's full \$5,000 award toward his total earnings. Even so, Shomar says, it's notable that the 2026 distribution from the judges was remarkably even this year.

"Every participant walked away with at least \$3,000," he says. "Also, eight of the nine competitors were in revenue by the time they were on stage presenting, and



"Dolphin Tank is an interesting coalescence of the community rallying behind the next generation of entrepreneurs." - James Shomar

“It’s now a pillar event for Le Moyne and businesses in our region.” - James Shomar

three were six-figure businesses already.”

Another major evolution of Dolphin Tank has been the networking event that follows the competition, which is designed to help participants build relationships with entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders in attendance.

“During the networking afterward, we’ve had inquiries from people seeking potential angel investment with the companies that were on stage,” says Shomar. “We designed this aspect of the event to cultivate lifelong connections. We’ve tried to give students as much exposure as possible because that’s arguably more valuable than the prize money.”

While Dolphin Tank remains an anchor event for Le Moyne, its impact on the broader Central New York region expands year after year. By helping students leverage their experiences, build professional networks, and gain exposure beyond campus, the regional entrepreneurial community has become a major player in the event as well.

“We help create access for students to opportunities and networks that are very hard to glean outside of an institution,” says Shomar.

“I encourage students to ask three questions when thinking about opportunities: Who are you going to meet? What are you going to learn? What resources are you going to gain? If you’re evaluating opportunities on those three criteria,” Shomar says, “you’re going to put yourself on a strong trajectory.”

And for most participants, Dolphin Tank is exactly that kind of opportunity.



“It’s an ecosystem for a night: sponsors, angel investors, entrepreneurs on stage, local small businesses, service providers, and the media.” - James Shomar

A Dolphin Tank First: A 30-Minute WCNY PBS Broadcast Coming This Summer

At last year's ninth annual Dolphin Tank, WCNY PBS President and CEO Mitch Gelman scouted the James Commons location as he discussed an idea with the Keenan Center team: could he bring the competition to TV?

This year, Gelman arrived with three cameras and a crew ready to film.

"One of the things I think all of us appreciate about living in Central New York is the pride that people here take in lifting each other up," says Gelman. "That is something that is embodied by the spirit and the commitment of Le Moyne College. At WCNY, we try to point our cameras at places where that ethos can be celebrated."

The crew captured pitches from the Dolphin Tank participants, the judges' questions, and the final results. The footage will be edited into a half-hour program airing this summer across WCNY PBS's 19 counties in Central New York and the Mohawk Valley.

"Our audience loves anything that's

educationally driven, and Dolphin Tank is the best of educational and professional development in terms of its core principles to help launch careers of talented and ambitious young people," says Gelman. "Plus, it's great TV. If *Shark Tank* can work on TV, Dolphin Tank can definitely work because dolphins are smarter than sharks."

He hopes the finished product inspires other stations to want to distribute it.

"People at Le Moyne have an innate gift to make the ordinary extraordinary," Gelman says. "The passion, the focus, and the creativity that all of the students and judges bring to the event create an incredibly infectious energy, and that's what I love about the leadership and the principles that make Le Moyne such a special place."

Gelman hopes he'll be back next year and that the event becomes an annual broadcast.

"Dolphin Tank captures the entrepreneurial spirit, the civic compassion, and the energy of this region as well as anything that occurs across Central New York," he says.

"Dolphin Tank is the best of educational and professional development that helps launch careers of talented and ambitious young people." - Mitch Gelman

WCNY  PBS



WCNY PBS captured this year's 10th anniversary of Dolphin Tank for a broadcast this summer.

**Presenting
Sponsors:**



Full-Circle Moment: Participant Turned Sponsor

Over the years, Dolphin Tank has welcomed back many of its alumni into the audience and occasionally even back to the stage for another pitch. But at this year's Dolphin Tank, for the first time ever, an alum returned as a sponsor.

2020 Dolphin Tank participant Devin Simmons' pitch had earned him funds for his digital marketing business six years ago, and then he went on to become chief marketing officer for a supplements manufacturer.

"Dolphin Tank provided the fuel I needed to get started on a business that changed my life," says Simmons.

"Devin's sponsorship is illustrative of the thesis of Dolphin Tank, and how we're investing in the participants' journeys," says Keenan Center Assistant Director James Shomar. "It's not about who's the next Mark Zuckerberg, and it's not *Shark Tank*, where judges are making a financial investment in these companies.

It's not intended to be a venture-backed funnel. It's about investing in entrepreneurs who are doing it very early in their journey."

Shomar says you never know where a Dolphin Tank participant's path might lead. He's seen contestants go on to do everything from establishing lifestyle businesses to building side hustles to pursuing higher-growth opportunities. But neither the products nor the businesses are the point.

For Simmons, the mentorship he's found through the Keenan Center has been invaluable to the start of his career, and he wanted to give back: "It allowed me to advance in my career faster than I would've dreamed," says Simmons.

"We invested in Devin, and now he is demonstrating this ethos to pay it forward to the next generation," says Shomar. "Even when you're only a step or two ahead, there's always somebody a couple of steps behind you who you can mentor and support. As you invest in the density of entrepreneurs and feed that cycle, it will repeat."



Full circle moment: Devin Simmons, who participated in Dolphin Tank in 2020, returned this year as a sponsor.

Judging Sponsors:



Devin
Simmons



Kelsey
Moody

"Dolphin Tank provided the fuel I needed to get started on a business that changed my life." - Devin Simmons

KEENAN COLLABORATION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK



Like the students pitching their ideas on the Dolphin Tank stage, the Keenan Center is continually building partnerships and expanding opportunities across Central New York. Our goal is to help shift the focus of the conversation from scarcity to possibility by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity throughout the region. By connecting talent, resources, and organizations, we are helping create a stronger support system for long-term growth and opportunity for our community. Pictured here are participants of our first-ever Keenan/ShIPLEY Innovation Studio, a true example of innovation in action.

Innovation in Action: The Launch of the Keenan/ Shipley Innovation Studio



Just after Memorial Day, three students met at the Keenan Center to officially launch the first-ever Keenan/Shipley Innovation Studio.

The partnership between the Keenan Center and Clarkson University's Shipley Center for Innovation connects innovative students with local tech companies to work on a defined project over the summer.

The students—two international graduate students from Clarkson and one rising junior from Le Moyne who is also a Keenan Center work-study—will live at Le Moyne and work at both the Keenan Center and their job placements through early August.

The students' innovative projects are specific to their placements. The Clarkson students will support Cazenovia-based Pelco Component Technologies, a manufacturer and designer of timers and controls. The students will be tasked with creating a new product line that integrates a touchscreen interface and the ability to be wirelessly reprogrammed.

The Le Moyne student will be working on AI-enabled systems for NERV, North Eastern

Rescue Vehicles, Inc., located in Syracuse.

"An innovation project is something that's growth-oriented for a company," says Keenan Center Assistant Director James Shomar. "They could be looking to launch a new product or a new business model, or they could be exploring a new market or a new technology."

All students will receive weekly coaching from the Keenan Center and Shipley Center staff, and will be on-site at their companies once a week.

"The students will basically act as an entrepreneur from within the company—an intrapreneur," says Shomar.

In addition to the coaching support, the students will have access to all facets of each company to help them be successful. This includes the company's marketing and engineering teams as well as manufacturing capabilities if they need to make prototypes.

At the end of the program, the students will present their findings to their companies explaining what they did and their recommendations.

In the future, Shomar hopes to double the number of students and companies involved,

Sponsored by:



especially after receiving 60+ applicants for the program this year. After all, it's a win-win for everyone involved.

"Since it's innovative in nature, it's hard for someone to give it the time and attention it deserves in addition to their job responsibilities," says Shomar. "But it's perfect for a budding entrepreneur."



Innovative problem solving. Creative programming. Supportive learning environments. From new flight courses to a collaborative drone mission on campus to a functional, real-life Minecraft crafting table, the Keenan Center is expanding its educational opportunities for all ages through inventive ideas, thoughtful mentors, and ample time and space to explore and try new things.

Flight Path to the Future: The Expansion of the Keenan Center's Drone Education Programming

This winter, staff at Le Moyne's Physical Plant started to notice leaks in their woodworking area and wanted a second opinion about the need for a new roof.

The weather wasn't good and having someone climb up and take a look was out of the question due to safety. Instead, they called the Keenan Center and asked about getting a drone to do the work.

Giovanni Colberg, a GIS Specialist for the Onondaga County Planning Agency, adjunct physics lab professor at Le Moyne, and the instructor of the Keenan Center's Drone Flight Skills course, conducted the inspection with three students.

"By using the drone and a multispectral camera, which detects heat and moisture, our software was able to detect moisture under the roof and discover that it was holding a lot of water," says Colberg.

"The drone simplified things for us," says Le Moyne's Assistant Vice President of Facilities Gary Peden. "The team provided infrared images that helped us tell where water had intruded to pinpoint problem areas. I had a general idea, and it confirmed my suspicions. Now, we just have to do a repair."

"I let the students fly the drone and showed them how the infrared imaging works," says Colberg. "We made a teaching moment out of it."

In addition to the mission itself, the experience also gave students insight on flight planning, autonomous operations, and sensor-based data capture. It represents a meaningful integration of applied learning and institutional needs, exactly what the Keenan Center hopes to continue to focus on in its expanding drone education courses.



Thanks to a continued partnership with NUAIR and instructors like Colberg, the Keenan Center now offers several drone education courses for community members. This winter, 12 participants were enrolled in the Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate program taught by NUAIR instructors, which included a mix of students and working professionals. By spring, 40 individuals were already on the next session's interest list. There's a growing demand for flexible, workforce-aligned training opportunities delivered through a cohort-based model.

Since March, Part 107-certified participants have been able to enroll in Colberg's Flight Skills course, and a photogrammetry class is expected to be offered soon.

“

The team provided infrared images that helped us tell where water had intruded to pinpoint problem areas.” - Gary Peden

“We prepare participants for evolving career opportunities driven by rapidly advancing drone technology.”- Jacki Boulter

“The Flight Skills course starts with very basic exercises to start developing control and dexterity by using the remote and the joysticks. We practice maneuvers such as figure eights and orbits,” says Colberg. “We start by flying in a square, and then turn that square into a circle. It’s designed to take students from very easy movements, and then turn them into piloting skills that will help in the different types of missions drones can do.”

“There are more and more opportunities for drones,” says Colberg. “They are a safer and very reliable way to do otherwise very dangerous jobs, like roof and tower inspections. It’s a field that’s been around for a while, but it’s finally gotten to the point where it can be a job for people apart from the military. I think the field is going to keep expanding for the next many years, as long as technology keeps improving.”

Even the facilities team has thought about the future of drone use in their work.

“I’ve gone to facility conferences where professionals talked about drones being able to do things like scan masonry to show open joints,” says Peden. “There could be a lot of opportunities for us in the future.”

“This integrated, hands-on approach is at the core of the Keenan Center’s drone education offerings,” says Keenan Center Associate Director Jacki Boulter, who coordinates the drone education program. “We prepare participants for evolving career opportunities driven by rapidly advancing drone technology.”



Interested in earning your Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate through the Keenan Center’s partnership with NUAIR? Scan the QR code to learn more.



The Keenan drone team helped Le Moyne’s facilities department inspect a roof this winter.

Keenan Innovators Bring Minecraft to Life at 2026 Maker Faire

For the 2026 Maker Faire, the ERIE21 high school Keenan Innovators class was looking for a project that would be fun, attention-grabbing, and entertaining.

Their Keenan Innovator coaches wanted an experience that would give students an opportunity to use electronics, CAD, 3D printing, sticker design, and woodworking, resulting in a project that would be both popular and recognizable. The compromise? A real-life Minecraft crafting table.

To start, the students worked on programming Arduinos—popular programmable microcontrollers—to code RFID tags with specific identifiers and instructions that determined what would be “built” based on the placement of the tags on the table. These RFID tags were then embedded into 3D-printed Minecraft objects and hidden by stickers that were designed and printed.

The crafting table itself was built to be true to size: one meter tall, wide, and deep. The sides and top were covered with stickers to mirror the actual Minecraft crafting table’s appearance.

The Arduinos and RFID readers were attached to the underside of the tabletop and could read the tags through the surface, allowing visitors at the Maker Faire to place “wooden logs,” “wooden planks,” or “wooden sticks” in various positions.



Keenan Innovator Coach Andrew Leary helps a student operate the Keenan Innovator Minecraft crafting table at this year’s Maker Faire, which was held for the first time in the New York State Fair’s Center of Progress Building.

If positioned correctly, the table would deliver them a “wooden sword,” a “wooden axe,” a “wooden pickaxe,” or a “wooden shovel.”

The original plan included many more items and crafting combinations, but due to time constraints, the team focused exclusively on wooden tools.

“The project was incredibly popular at the Maker Faire and had a constant stream of visitors of all ages,” says Andrew Leary, founder of CNY Robotics and Science and one of the team’s Keenan coaches. “It was a great experience for the students and a good lesson in the importance of time management, too!”



To learn more about the
Keenan Innovator program,
scan the QR code.

Keenan Center Continues to Support Young Innovators Through Partnerships with Leading Community Organizations: CNY Robotics and Science

CNY Robotics and Science continues to partner with the Keenan Center to support its ever-evolving STEAM educational programming opportunities.

This year, the middle school team, a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge team, took first place at its regional tournament and went on to win the first-place Judges' Award at the championships in Buffalo.

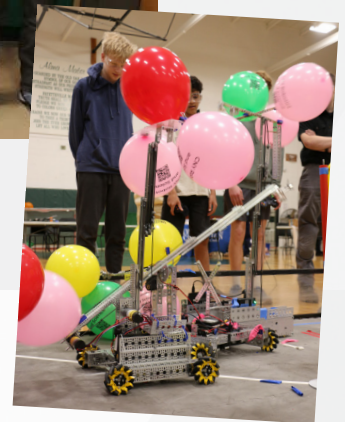
The team, which includes seven students from different schools in the area, was tasked with solving a problem facing real-world archaeologists. First, the team met with an expert in archaeological and paleontological excavations. Then they designed a portable machine that would sift dirt through multiple layers of screens automatically, which is a very time-consuming and tedious

"It was exciting to witness the kids new to robotics and coding perform so well."- Andrew Leary



Above: CNY Robotics and Science's middle school FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge team won the first-place Judges' Award at the Championships in Buffalo.

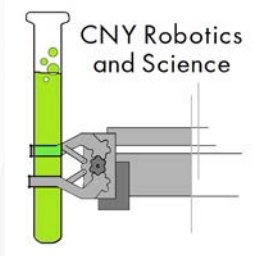
Right: The high school team at the Balloon BattleBot Bash event.



task to do by hand. They spent time at the Keenan Center building a prototype of the device to prove its effectiveness.

"Only two of the members of the team had any prior experience with FLL," says Andrew Leary, founder of CNY Robotics and Science. "It was exciting to see a group of strangers work so well together and witness the kids new to robotics and coding perform so well."

The high school team competed in FIRST Tech Challenge competitions and in the CNY Robotics and Science Spring Tournament, where it participated in the main event: the Balloon BattleBot Bash. In this event, each robot had a balloon on three of its sides and on its highest point. Teams earned points by popping balloons of their assigned color before the balloons on their own robot were popped.



CONCLUSION

Be Part of Our Next Decade of Innovation

Join us as we continue to expand our creative partnerships

Since the launch of Dolphin Tank a decade ago, the Keenan Center has strived to support participants in the full lifecycle of their dreams: from idea to scale. But we haven't done it alone. The growth we have seen through our annual event is a testament to the broader entrepreneurial community's commitment to nurturing the next generation of innovation in Central New York and beyond. Now, as we build partnerships through the Keenan/ShIPLEY Innovation Studio, expand our drone education offerings, and strengthen our relationships with our long-time sponsors, we are always exploring new ways to connect. Contact us to share your ideas and visions for the future of entrepreneurship.



Let's Connect

- If you are a business leader interested in sponsoring the Keenan Center's efforts to inspire and coach more of CNY's budding entrepreneurs through our proven and practical approach, or are looking to support the Keenan Center's mission to educate CNY's youth through hands-on, inquiry-based learning, please contact **Mike D'Eredita** (deredima@lemoyne.edu) for more details or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities.
- If you're interested in getting involved in our community-focused Keenan Innovators Program or summer programs or want to learn more about our partnership with CNY Robotics and Science, contact us at keenanlearning@lemoyne.edu.
- If you're interested in making a meaningful impact at the 2027 Dolphin Tank, or want to learn more about partnerships through the Keenan/ShIPLEY Innovation Studio, reach out to **James Shomar** (shomarja@lemoyne.edu).
- If your company is looking to educate and certify its own team of drone pilots, you would like to become a Part 107 drone pilot, or you would like to explore sponsorship opportunities, contact us at KCdrones@lemoyne.edu.



Keenan Community Collaborators

Our partnerships have allowed us to expand our services, unveil new programs, and continue to support every budding entrepreneur who walks through our doors. Our collaborators are our future, and we are always looking for new partners and opportunities.

We are grateful for the continued efforts of our 100+ Keenan Community Collaborators

Agri-Trak	Flyhound Corporation	NUAIR
Aloft	Genius NY	OneGroup
Antigua Chamber of Commerce	Good Life Youth Foundation	OneGroup Retirement Advisors
Antigua Tourism Board	Greenjets	Onondaga Central School District
Archangel Defense	Hetterich Center for Global	Onondaga Community College
ARISE Adaptive Design	Engagement & Societal Impact	(OCC)
Association of Uncrewed Vehicle	Hub Cub Scouts - Syracuse	Onondaga County Public Library
Systems International (AUVSI)	Hueber-Breuer Construction Co.	(OCPL)
Bank of America	Impel	Onondaga Environmental Institute
BlackEagle	Indium Corporation	Onondaga - Cortland - Madison
BlueFlite	Ithaca Generator	Counties Board of Cooperative
BNY Mellon	IntelliEQ	Educational Services
Boy Scouts of America	Involi SA	(OCM BOCES)
Boys & Girls Club of Syracuse	Jamesville-DeWitt Central	Pelco Component Technologies
Butt Be Dry	School District	Pinnacle
CADimensions	JOJ Wealth & Tax Advisory	Raster Digital
Campdesign	Jubilee Homes	Rising CNY
Carroll College of Arts and	Keenan Center at Ohio State	Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Sciences at Le Moyne College	Kelsey Moody	Safe Space CNY
CenterState CEO	Kinney Drugs	Salient
Central New York BioTech	Lafayette School District	Shippan Point Advisors
Accelerator	Leadership Greater Syracuse	Spatchcock Funk
Clarkson University	Le Moyne College Athletics	Syracuse Surge Accelerator
Clutch Delivery	Le Moyne College Counseling	Syracuse University Makerspace
CNY Robotics and Science	Center	Switch the Future
CNY STEM Hub	Le Moyne College Liberty	Syracuse.com
Coffeehouse CxO	Partnership Program	Syracuse University's Institute
Collaborative Educators	Le Moyne College Maker Zone	for Sustainability Engagement
Summit 2024	student club	The HUSTLE Defense Accelerator
Constellation Brands	Le Moyne College Manresa	Program
Copurpose	Program	The Tech Garden
Cracked Bean Roastery	Le Moyne College Purcell School	Teddie Eddies
Devin Simmons	Occupational Therapy and	UpMobility Foundation
Docker Inc.	Physician Assistant programs	Upstate Medical University
DVC Games	Le Moyne College STEP Program	Upward Bound
East Syracuse Minoa Central	Liverpool Central School District	at Le Moyne College
School District	Liverpool Public Library	Vergil Ventures
Educating for our Rising Innovation	M&T Bank	VIP Structures
Economy (ERIE21)	Maker Faire Syracuse	Visual and Performing Arts at
Edward Jones	Mariola Media	Le Moyne College
Fayetteville Free Library (FFL)	McNeil & Co.	Ward
Fayetteville-Manlius	Modovolo	WCNY PBS
School District	More Good Jobs	Westhill Central School District
Federal Aviation Administration	Musical Theater Incubator	World Cubing Association
Federal Bureau of Investigation	North Eastern Rescue Vehicle	

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Keenan Center Report

