

## Professional Formation of Engineers II Students accepted into the Spring 2019 USF I-Corps Site program with “Thinking Inside the Box”

The University of South Florida is an I-Corps Site geared for developing potential I-Corps Team projects and providing an entrepreneurial program for faculty and student teams to compete together to assess their business potential. Each semester, the USF I-Corps program holds an intensive 6-week introductory "boot camp" for teams from all across the USF System. Each team receives a modest grant of up to \$3,000, and training and mentoring to explore the potential commercial development potential for their ideas. Each team includes a USF faculty member, USF student, and a business entrepreneur from the community. Team members who complete the rigorous course earn the designation "USF I-Corps Fellows."



The Professional Formation of Engineers II (PFE II) course is honored to have a group of students accepted into the Spring 2019 I-Corps Site program. **David Escobio, Sebastian Gazda, Dylan Hancock, Jevon Hendrickson, Melissa Mankewich, Cooper Neal, Cedric Nicolas, Jorge Quintana, Breanna Skladanek, and David Visicaro** are creating a control system that operates the functions of a single container farm. These functions will allow plants to grow year-round in environments that are unique to individual plant species. The long-term goal of this project would be to start with a small scale design of this process and optimize it for a scale-up model that is tailored to a customer's needs.

**Joel Howell**, an Instructor for the Electrical Engineering Department, is currently directing the new Professional Formation of Engineers course series, which focuses on helping students develop skills and competencies through experiential learning activities, including community service, involvement in student organizations, internships/co-ops, and undergraduate research. Prior to joining USF, Joel served as an Advanced Programs Engineer and Business Development Manager for Harris Corporation, and helped Harris secure over \$200M in contracts with NASA.



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