



helix center ENERGIZING START-UPS & INNOVATION

Just one day after being laid off due to downsizing, Umesh Patel arrived at the Helix Center with years of biotech knowledge and the dream of starting a new business of his own. Now months after launching Mayflower Bioscience with his co-founders, Umesh is confident that both the Helix Center and St. Louis have all the tools needed to grow his company to a leading distributor of life science research products.

When plant and life science and technology innovators like Umesh have an idea for a start-up company, the Helix Center is increasingly becoming the entrepreneur's incubator of choice. Operated by the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, the Helix Center offers affordable lab and office space equipped with industrial freezers, microscopes, and other instruments that are often too costly for young companies. Additionally, a host of workshops tailored to the start-up community and business mentorship opportunities available to Helix members pairs well with the thriving university and research environment in St. Louis. Speaking to the abundant resources and support available here, Umesh affirms, "There are no barriers. Everyone here is so free to give advice and resources, and the universities are willing to test your ideas. That can be big for a company."

For young talent and seasoned business minds, native St. Louisans and immigrants like Umesh, one small idea can grow into a company that builds wealth not only for its founders but for the whole community. As Mayflower forecasts its employment and revenues to leap in the coming years, Umesh is pleased with his decision to plant roots in St. Louis. "I could have gone to Boston or San Diego, but it is equally good here. And it can only get better."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HELIX CENTER OR TO BECOME AN INCUBATOR MEMBER, VISIT www.helixcenter.com