OVAEL Student Leadership Board
Call for Applications

What is OVAEL?
Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership (OVAEL) in Gies College of Business supports entrepreneurship and changemaking education to create a better world. We offer campus-wide entrepreneurship programs, including those focused on social innovation, specialty and inclusive entrepreneurship, and community outreach initiatives to support local and global micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. Some programs in our portfolio include the Illinois Impact Incubator, iVenture Accelerator, Women in Entrepreneurship, Illinois Economic Justice Project, Social Innovation Global Scholars, and Entrepreneurs Without Borders. We collaborate with campus and community partners and provide leadership to support an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem that ignites transformational learning, economic development, and social impact.

Student Leadership Board Responsibilities
The Student Leadership Board (SLB) will play a critical role in building OVAEL capacity to create innovative programs, enhance access and inclusion, expand our professional network of mentors/experts/speakers, and capture stories of impact to attract resources and encourage broader participation in the Illinois entrepreneurship ecosystem. SLB members should anticipate a commitment of 2 hours/week (50 hours per year) to make an impact. This commitment will be variable, depending on event needs, interests/skills of SLB members, and any special projects that the SLB might want to initiate. The SLB will work together to balance covering priority tasks for OVAEL with opportunities to optimize learning and leadership experiences. SLB members can expect to do things like

- Participate in weekly SLB meet-ups to plan and collaborate (Thurs 6:30-8:30 pm)
- Serve as a Gies ambassador to conduct outreach and promote OVAEL programs
- Provide planning, execution, and leadership support for OVAEL programs and events
- Create multi-media content and support storytelling, communications, and evaluation
- Serve as a connector and builder of networks and resources to support entrepreneurship
- Provide advisory, constructive feedback to ensure program responsiveness

Why Apply for the Student Leadership Board?
The SLB provides significant leadership opportunities for students to make a meaningful difference in the Illinois entrepreneurship ecosystem. Members will learn more about entrepreneurship, gain experience in entrepreneurship ecosystem building, enhance their professional network, and build transferrable skills that will be beneficial in a variety of careers. As an SLB member in good standing, you will have access to exclusive opportunities, SWAG, and eligibility for a $500 Entrepreneurial Leadership Award in recognition of SLB accomplishments. The SLB is open to highly dependable students of all majors and levels who can both take initiative and work effectively in a team, regardless of prior experience in the entrepreneurship ecosystem. For questions, contact Valeri Werpetinski at werpetin@illinois.edu.

Application: https://go.gies.illinois.edu/OVAELSLB21-22