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Fideicomiso para Ciencia,
Tecnología e Investigación
de Puerto Rico

PRESS RELEASE

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PRSTRT launches free incubator Fase1

The initiative seeks to expand access to business education on the island through short courses that cover the basics of entrepreneurship, such as its fundamentals, idea generation, and market validation.

San Juan, Puerto Rico – November 16, 2021 – The [Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust](#) (PRSTRT) announced the launch of its new initiative, **Fase1**, a free virtual program that offers educational modules with short courses on entrepreneurship. Those interested in participating in the program have to fill out the form at www.fase1.org.

The program, which is also part of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing's Small Business Incubators and Accelerators Program, under the CDBG-DR funding program, will be divided into two parts. The first, Fase1 Lab, will provide online modules and is designed for anyone who wants to learn how to develop a successful, innovative, and scalable business.

Once participants complete the modules, they will have the opportunity to apply to Fase1 Intensive. This second stage is a free incubation program that will occur once a year and will accept up to 50 entrepreneurs who completed Fase1 Lab to go through a 12-week curriculum where they will have the opportunity to prepare a minimum viable product of their idea. This curriculum will be in hybrid mode and will include mentoring sessions with international specialists and group sessions.

"Fase1 aims to make quality entrepreneurship education accessible to all. For this reason, we have designed simple, free modules that can be accessed online at any time to eliminate barriers to entry to the entrepreneurial world," said Cristina Tamayo, Executive Director of the program.



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"We are proud to implement Fase1, as it is the missing piece to complete the Trust's route in the entrepreneurship programs. This new initiative helps prepare entrepreneurs to qualify for pre18, while giving Colmena66 a new outlet to refer those who come to its program looking to launch a business," said Lucy Crespo, Chief Executive Officer of the PRSTRT.

"This project is in tune with the Trust's mission to invest, facilitate and develop the capabilities necessary to advance Puerto Rico's economy and the well-being of its citizens. We are confident that we have the experience, technology, resources, and agility necessary to carry out this program successfully, providing a robust boost to Puerto Rico's economy," Crespo added.

"We conceptualized Fase1 to democratize access to business education and make it accessible to everyone. From working mothers with a hectic schedule and students about to graduate to older adults seeking to use the skills learned in their work for other purposes, regardless of socioeconomic status," Tamayo added.

The incubator will have HQs in Santurce's San José Building, where the parallel18 and its programs, pre18 and P18, are located, to offer a prototyping and working space for the participants.

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About Fase1:

Fase1 is an entrepreneurship program with two main goals: provide universal access to entrepreneurship education and incubate ideas that can be transformed into successful startups.

As a Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust program, Fase1 complements the entrepreneurship pillar of the organization that includes Colmena66 and the parallel18 programs pre18 and P18. Fase1 is part of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing's Small Business Incubators and Accelerators Program under the CDBG-DR funding program. Visit fase1.org for more information.

About the Trust for Science, Technology, and Research

The Trust for Science, Technology, and Research, as described in Public Law 214, is a non-profit organization created in 2004 to promote participation and job creation on the Island in the global knowledge economy by promoting investment and funding for research and development in science and technology. It invests, facilitates, and develops the capacities that continuously advance the economy of Puerto Rico and the well-being of its citizens through companies based on innovation, science and technology, and its industrial base. With the goal that by 2022, Puerto Rico will be a center of global recognition that develops and retains scientists, companies, and entrepreneurs of world excellence to boost our competitiveness and creativity. It is also responsible for Puerto Rico's public policy for science, technology, research and development, and public health. For more information: www.prsciencetrust.org.