



## INNOVATION STATION

The [Mount Ida Campus](#) in Newton allows the large portion of UMass Amherst students and alumni living in the Greater Boston area to study and access internships at many of the major companies located there. Now, the campus is expanding its offerings with a new co-working space available for startups and small companies to rent.

The Innovation and Collaboration Space offers 20 individual workspaces, plus a lab area with 26 benches and access to the university's core facilities on the Amherst campus. A 6,000-square-foot collaborative makerspace is planned for the near future. Companies that rent these spaces can then easily provide professional development opportunities like job shadowing and informational interviews to students.

The [Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network \(MSBDC\)](#), which offers training, funding, and other resources, has signed on as one of the first entities to use the co-working space. Georgianna Parkin, state director of MSBDC, says the new spaces give the network “the opportunity to reach across the state, perhaps to students in western Mass. looking for opportunities in Boston.”

Kathryn Ellis, director of the [UMass Amherst Innovation Institute](#), notes that “We now have a variety of different types of companies; there is great potential for expansion.”