**The Viterbi Student Institute for Innovation (VSI2)**

**VSI2**’s mission is to foster the entrepreneurial spirit in all USC engineers and scientists and become the leading source of innovative and disruptive startups that change the world. **VSI2** is the hub for innovation and entrepreneurship activity at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.

**Objectives**

1. Plant seeds of innovation and entrepreneurial thinking in every Viterbi engineer and scientist.

**2.** Support students and faculty in turning their ideas or research into successful ventures.

**3.** Boost the local startup ecosystem

**Priorities**

**1. Education** of USC students in the elements of innovation and entrepreneurship is key to success. Education in entrepreneurship increases the chances of successful new ventures.

**2. New Venture Creation** byproviding capital, space and mentoring to launch technology Ventures, access to a broad network of investors, and access to a broad network of industry executives in different engineering disciplines.

**3. Industry Connections** providing all USC students and faculty, industry professionals, and investors with opportunities toparticipate in a multitude of networking events.





**Figure 1:** The VSI2 Roadmap **Figure 2:** Building a Startup Ecosystem. *Source: T. Eisenmann*

**VSI2 Startup Garage Summer Incubator/Accelerator** (http://vsi2.usc.edu/startupgarage/)

The mission of the **VSI2** Startup Garage is to stimulate the creation and growth of technology-based ventures. The Garage is an innovation, incubation and collaborative space for engineers and nonengineering students to connect and build next generation technology ventures. A 12-summer-week technology venture accelerator program provides education, funding, workspace, guidance and mentoring to early stage technology companies. At the end of the summer teams pitch their company to a growing network of local and national entrepreneurs, investors and alumni. The key focus is companies with a strong technology core, including hardware and software ventures. Created in collaboration with two of the leading firms in the world, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and United Talent Agency, the program is competitively open to anyone so long as a USC Viterbi student of alumnus is the team co-founder or CEO. The first cohort of the **VSI2**incubator accepted ten companies. Each team receives $20K in exchange for 4% equity.