

**CONCEPT** Creating a makerspace is an excellent way to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. A makerspace is a collaborative workspace that provides individuals with the tools, resources, and support they need to design, create, and innovate new products. To successfully establish a working makerspace, you need to identify the needs of your community and gather the necessary resources, including funding, tools and real estate.

The maker's mentality is about embracing a DIY (Do It Yourself) approach to solving problems and creating new things. In a makerspace, individuals with different backgrounds and skill sets can come together to share ideas, collaborate and learn from each other. This mindset encourages innovation and entrepreneurship by providing individuals with the space and tools to experiment and create.

## REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

One example of a makerspace in Nebraska that supports innovation and entrepreneurship is the Nebraska Innovation Studio (NIS) in Lincoln. NIS is a community-driven makerspace that provides access to tools, equipment and training to individuals interested in creating new inventions or innovating upgrades.

The NIS offers a variety of tools and equipment, including 3D printers, laser cutters, woodworking tools and electronics equipment. The space also offers training and workshops on various subjects, such as welding, metalworking and sewing. Members of the Lincoln MakerSpace can collaborate with other members, participate in group projects, share their work through the space's online community and receive training on new equipment. Experienced makers can provide mentorship and coaching to newer members, helping them develop their skills and pursue their projects.

