

NEWS ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## AURP 2019 International Conference to Present New Report on the Evolution of Innovation Districts

*Global Institute on Innovation Districts' Julie Wagner & Tom Osha to unveil "The Evolution of Innovation Districts: The New Geography of Global Innovation"*

**Tucson, Arizona, October 23, 2019** – The Association of University Research Parks (AURP), a global nonprofit membership organization serving the university and institutional research parks community, announced today the Global Institute on Innovation Districts will unveil its inaugural research report, "The Evolution of Innovation Districts: The New Geography of Global Innovation," at the AURP 2019 International Conference, November 4-7, in Atlanta.

The AURP 2019 International Conference, taking place at Georgia Tech's Tech Square research park, will bring together more than 200 research park and innovation district leaders from around the world for high-impact knowledge exchange and networking with the industry's premier experts and leaders.

In the conference's opening keynote session, **Tuesday, Nov. 5, 5:10pm**, Julie Wagner (President, Global Institute on Innovation Districts and President, Urban Insight) and Tom Osha (Board Chair, Global Institute on Innovation Districts and Senior Vice President, Innovation and Economic Development, with Wexford Science & Technology) will formally present the Global Institute's landmark report.

"This paper is being released at a critical moment in time given that entrepreneurial dynamism is slowing, national and state investments in cities in many countries are contracting, divisions by income and wealth are expanding, and efforts to mitigate climate change face political pushback," says the Global Institute's Julie Wagner.

Innovation districts, as defined by the Global Institute, are discrete, walkable areas where anchor institutions, firms, labs and related entities collaborate as a collective to increase their competitive potential to foster innovation and economic development. The Global Institute estimates roughly 100 innovation districts are emerging globally with 20 districts currently in operation in the US.

At the conference, Wagner and Osha will share insights from the report on how successful innovation districts are reaching their potential through deployment of strategies that leverage a district's economic, physical and social networking assets. Wagner and Osha also will talk about how successful innovation districts rely on organizational strategies and structures, particularly a strong governance model and coordinated finance. The paper can be accessed

at: <https://www.giid.org/the-evolution-of-innovation-districts-download/>



*Creating Communities of  
Innovation*

**ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS**

“With release of this paper, Julie Wagner and Tom Osha have contributed immensely to our collective understanding of how innovation districts prosper and grow,” says AURP CEO Brian Darmody.

In addition to Wagner and Osha’s keynote presentation, the report and its specific topics will be discussed in a “fireside chat” setting by an expert panel comprising: Professor Dan G. Blumberg, PhD, Vice President of Industrial and Regional Development, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel; Matt Enstice, President and Chief Executive Officer, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus; Edward Highfield, Director, City Growth, Sheffield City Council, UK; Greg King, CEcD, Associate Vice President for Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dennis Lower, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cortex Innovation Community; Julie Wells, Vice-Principal, Strategy and Culture, The University of Melbourne.

The AURP Annual International Conference is hosted annually by a university or institution-based research park, giving conference attendees dynamic opportunities to learn about and see first-hand how other research parks operate and chart their growth paths.

**About AURP:**

AURP, a not-for-profit international organization with offices in the Washington, DC area at the University of Maryland Discovery District and in Tucson, AZ at the University of Arizona Tech Park, focuses on creating communities of innovation and education for research parks both operating and planned, plus innovation districts, incubators, accelerators and the businesses that support the research park industry. AURP and its global membership promote research, institute-industry relations and innovation districts to foster innovation and to facilitate the transfer of technology from such institutions to the private sector. Learn more: [www.aurp.net](http://www.aurp.net)

**About The Global Institute on Innovation Districts:**

The Global Institute on Innovation Districts was recently established in response to growing demand to support innovation districts globally. It is designed to be a practitioner-led and empirically grounded not-for-profit organization to strategically advance innovation districts worldwide. The Global Institute is currently supported by three Founding Partners: Lendlease, a global property and infrastructure group, and The Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University; and Ventas, Inc., a real estate investment trust. Learn more: [www.giid.org](http://www.giid.org)

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