



Creating Communities of
Innovation

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AURP Presents Annual Awards of Excellence at 2019 International Conference at Georgia Tech's Tech Square

AURP also announces its 2020 Board of Directors and Officers

Tucson, AZ, November 12, 2019 – The Association of University Research Parks (AURP), a global non-profit membership organization serving the institutional research park and innovation district community, presented its 2019 Awards of Excellence honorees last week at AURP's 2019 International Conference hosted by Georgia Tech's Tech Square in Atlanta.

In addition to its awards presentations, AURP announced its 2020 Board of Directors and Officers.

The AURP 2019 International Conference has brought together more than 250 research/science/tech park and innovation district leaders from around the world for high-impact knowledge exchange and networking with the industry's premier experts and leaders.

AURP's 2019 Awards of Excellence categories comprised: Leadership, Appreciation, Rising Star Vision, Innovation, Career Achievement, and Emerging Innovation District Awards.

AURP's 2019 Awards honorees are:

Leadership Award – Darryl Steinberg, Mayor, City of Sacramento, California, and Gary May, Chancellor, University of California, Davis:

Mayor Steinberg, previously the first Sacramentan to serve as President of the California Senate in over 125 years, is helping revitalize Sacramento's downtown while making economic development, addressing homelessness and providing year-round paid internships to Sacramento's high school students through a new initiative, Thousand Strong, the priorities of his administration.

Chancellor May leads the University of California, Davis, the most comprehensive campus in the University of California (UC) system. Prior to his leadership role at UC-Davis, Chancellor May taught in Georgia Tech's School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and ultimately rose to become Dean of Georgia Tech's College of Engineering — the largest and most diverse school of its kind in the nation.

Appreciation Award – State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI): Leading SSTI since its launch in 1996, Dan Berglund, SSTI President & CEO, has helped develop a nationwide network of practitioners and policymakers dedicated to improving the economy through science, technology and innovation. With SSTI's focus on improving initiatives that support prosperity through science,



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technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, Berglund and his team continue to deliver the most comprehensive resource available for those involved in technology-based economic development.

Rising Star Award – Kate Engel, Director of Communication and Culture, Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC): With NIC, Engel develops and implements programs aimed at creating a culture that encourages collaboration and partnerships between NIC, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the community. Working with current AURP President Dan Duncan, Engel’s programs are focused on creating opportunities for people with different skill sets to meet and socialize – and, in turn, help spark innovation and entrepreneurship.

Rising Star honorees include: Merry Hunter Caudle, Georgia Institute of Technology; Victoria O’Dell, Capital City Innovation; Stephanie Miller, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Vision Award - Kevin Byrne, President, The University Financing Foundation (and AURP Past President): Byrne has built a distinguished career in crafting complex public-private partnerships, real estate financing structures and economic development initiatives for university research parks and innovation districts. As AURP President twice, in 2012 and 2014, Byrne brought his energy, collaboration skills, industry expertise and vision to advancing innovation and economic development through development and support of university-based research parks and innovation districts.

AURP Innovation Award – Sempulse, Austin, TX, and Emagine Solutions Technology, Tucson, AZ

Sempulse has developed a non-invasive vital signs sensor that adheres to the back of the ear and acquires patients’ five major vital signs. This device comprises industry-first cuffless blood pressure, pulse oximetry, heart rate, respiratory rate, and core body temperature, plus GPS and related vital signs information. Developed for military triage, Sempulse is equally capable in civilian markets with applications ranging from mass casualty, post-operative, remote monitoring, telemedicine, athlete and team peak performance training.

Emagine Solutions Technology’s team of tech innovators, clinicians, and business professionals has created innovative mobile ultrasound technology called VistaScan. With VistaScan, the Emagine team provides affordable, quality ultrasound to clinicians in a wholly new life-saving way. Emagine’s proprietary software platform transforms a clinician’s cell phone or tablet into a highly mobile ultrasound machine. VistaScan features lightweight, ergonomically-friendly probes without the need to recharge and with superior imaging quality.

AURP Career Achievement Award – Scott Levitan, CEO & President, Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina: Levitan has over 30 years of experience working on university-related research parks and mixed-use development. Prior to his current role, Levitan was Vice President of Forest City Realty Trust and Development Director for the Science + Technology Park



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at Johns Hopkins University and the New East Baltimore Community. Prior to that, he was Executive Director of Real Estate Development for Georgia Tech where he oversaw all real estate planning and development activities for the school. During his tenure, he oversaw the development of Georgia Tech's Tech Square.

Emerging Innovation District – Capital City Innovation, Austin, Texas: Capital City Innovation, chartered by a consortium of academic and civic stakeholders and place-makers, shares a common purpose, core principles and a drive to spark innovation that inclusively supports community health and economic well-being. The consortium includes: The University of Texas at Austin, Central Health (Travis County's health district), Ascension Seton, The Downtown Austin Alliance and Opportunity Austin. Capital City Innovation has launched a sustainable, inclusive, coalition model for Austin's Innovation District. Capital City Innovation recently convened an affinity network of six business incubators providing facilities and services to health and life science startup companies and that will serve as feeders for the Innovation District.

"AURP is thrilled to announce our 2019 Award winners. While many others are deserving, these leaders have distinguished themselves in driving their 'Communities of Innovation' to new heights," said Dan Duncan, AURP President and Executive Director, Nebraska Innovation Campus. "I also want to thank and congratulate the 2020 AURP Board of Directors and Officers for leading our organization in the coming year."

"On behalf of the global AURP innovation community, I extend wholehearted congratulations to all of our 2019 Awards of Excellence honorees," said AURP CEO Brian Darmody. "Each of these remarkable individuals and the organizations they represent are truly deserving of AURP recognition. We're delighted to honor their energy, devotion and commitment to advancing the mission of growing university-based innovation and technology communities in the US and worldwide."

AURP also announced its 2019-2020 Board of Directors slate:

- **Jonathan Bates**, Executive Director, Real Estate Administration & Research Park, University of Utah Research Park
- **Dwaine Chapel**, CEO & Executive Director, Growth Partnership and Research Park, South Dakota State University
- **Laura Frerichs**, Director, University of Illinois Research Park, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Economic Development
- **Will Germain**, Senior Investment Officer, Research & Innovation, Ventas
- **Jeff Johnson**, Director, TechCenter Research Park, Virginia Tech
- **Greg King, CECD**, Associate Vice President for Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology



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- **Julie Lenzer**, Chief Innovation Officer; Director, UM Ventures, The University of Maryland, College Park
- **Scott Levitan**, President and CEO, The Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina
- **Aaron Miscenich**, MBA, Principal, Works Progress Advisory, LLC
- **Larry Shaw**, CEO, Knowledge Park, Inc. & Ignite Frederickton (NB)

AURP's 2019-2020 Executive Committee include:

- **President – Daniel Duncan**, Executive Director, Nebraska Innovation Campus
- **Vice President – Leah Burton**, Director of Centennial Campus Partnership Office and Industry Alliances, NC State University
- **Treasurer – Ken Marcus**, MBA, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, Tech Parks Arizona
- **Secretary – Erin Koshut**, Executive Director, Cummings Research Park
- **At-Large – Chris Carlson**, Senior Vice President, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
- **At-Large – Mark Romney**, Chief Strategy Officer, Aggie Square - University of California, Davis
- **Past President – Mason Ailstock**, Senior Principal, HR&A Advisors

About AURP:

AURP, a non-profit international organization with offices in Tucson, AZ at the University of Arizona Science & Technology Park (UA Tech Park) and in the Washington, DC area at the University of Maryland Discovery District, 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

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