CREATING A VIBRANT ECOSYSTEM OF INVENTION, COMMERCIALIZATION AND IMPACT

TECH LAUNCH ARIZONA
2014 Annual Report and Roadmap Update
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In just over a year, Tech Launch Arizona (TLA) has begun to revolutionize technology transfer and commercialization at the University of Arizona. With 11 new startup companies, 19 new proof-of-concept projects funded, and many other successes, TLA has already forged transformative partnerships with the industries and communities we serve. As TLA’s ecosystem of invention and commercialization grows, it will continue evolving to drive the cycle of ideas, inventions, and technologies so critical to Southern Arizona’s future as a hub of economic prosperity, innovation, and high-tech career development.

This vital work honors the UA’s history as a premier land-grant university, and it is driving our future as a super land-grant university, helping to ensure that UA discoveries are at the heart of innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. With TLA as a leading edge of the UA’s Never Settle strategic plan, we are creating synergies among our research enterprise, Tech Parks Arizona, and Arizona’s technology and business communities that will be at the heart of a bright future for the University and the many communities we serve.

Ann Weaver Hart, President
The University of Arizona
I arrived here at the UA from Colorado slightly more than two years ago. In that short time, I have been delighted with the vibrant Tucson community and the amazing response Tech Launch Arizona has received across the UA and throughout the region.

What the UA is undertaking through the Never Settle strategic plan and the TLA enterprise is nothing short of transformational. In light of such an ambitious pursuit, it’s wonderful to have such active support and engagement as we work toward our shared vision for a vibrant commercialization ecosystem.

When we began in 2012, we laid out our Roadmap with 55 objectives that would determine our direction and serve to measure our success. We achieved many of those goals faster and sooner than expected. However, some took longer and were more challenging. We also found that some undertakings were no longer suited to our evolving focus.

I’ve learned so much about the UA and what is possible here. I’ve learned that this university is a powerhouse when it comes to research, and that a great many of our researchers want to create impact beyond that of contributing to their academic body of knowledge. Not only do they see the potential of how their discoveries and inventions can affect people’s lives, they want to realize that potential. They understand that commercialization represents an effective path for bringing those ideas to the world.

At TLA, that vision for bringing such inventions to the world drives us every day. This kind of transformation happens one step, one meeting, and one invention at a time. In service to the UA community we hold ourselves to the highest of standards because we are accountable to you: the people we serve across the UA, and throughout Tucson and Arizona.

If you have already worked with us, thank you for your collaboration and we hope you’ve had a wonderful experience.

And if you have yet to engage with us – whether you are a UA inventor, an entrepreneurial UA alum, a member of our network or an energized student with a great business idea – we are excited to work with you.

Together, we will create never-before-seen levels of economic and social impact. We look forward to traveling the road ahead.

David N. Allen, Vice President
Tech Launch Arizona
VISION

By 2020, the University of Arizona through Tech Launch Arizona will become a recognized national resource for its role in commercializing UA-created knowledge, thereby bringing the University’s inventions to the public for economic and social benefit.

MISSION

TLA will build upon the synergies among the faculty, administration, students and alumni of the University of Arizona, its tech parks, and the technology and business community to significantly enhance the impact of UA research, intellectual property (IP) and technological innovation.
WE PARTNER with groups across campus and around the region, the state and the nation, and bring together the unique assets and talents that each offers the ecosystem.

WE IMPLEMENT strategies to combine and leverage each resource and asset for maximum impact.

WE DELIVER measurable economic and social impact for the UA, Arizona and the world.

ENGAGING THE ECOSYSTEM

RESOURCES

THE UA
STUDENTS
FACULTY
RESEARCHERS

NETWORK/COMMUNITY
ALUMNI
LEADERS
DOMAIN EXPERTS

FUNDING SOURCES
CORPORATIONS
GOVERNMENT

TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE,
INVENTIONS,
BUSINESS IDEAS

LEADERSHIP
DOMAIN EXPERTISE
VENTURE CAPITAL

RESEARCH FUNDING,
ADOPTION OF EARLY-STAGE
TECHNOLOGIES,
SPONSORED RESEARCH

RESULTS

TECH LAUNCH ARIZONA
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
TECH PARKS
WHEELHOUSE
CORPORATE RELATIONS
TLA AMBASSADORS

PRODUCTS & SERVICES THAT
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

PATENTS & LICENSES

STUDENT CAREER READINESS
& ENTREPRENEURSHIP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
WITH THE UA

STARTUPS & NEW JOBS

PRODUCTIVE, LONG-TERM
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

SUPER LAND-GRA NT UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT
In 2012, the University of Arizona (UA) officially created Tech Launch Arizona (TLA), putting forth a new, integrated strategic direction for technology commercialization, business engagement and the University’s technology parks.

TLA implements this transformation, facilitating the creation of an ecosystem of invention and commercialization across the University, and forming deep connections with groups sharing the vision for economic and social impact.

The original TLA Roadmap charted our goals from 2013 through 2018. Since its publication, we have broadened our reach in sync with the early transformation that has begun across the University and the commercialization landscape.

We move forward into FY 2015 with many successes as well as indispensable lessons learned. We established and achieved both process- and outcome-oriented goals, and built a complete, well-qualified team to help us achieve them.

Our strategies and operations are focused.
Our early results show a positive and reliable direction.
Our plan will continue to evolve.
TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

» Continually foster a culture of service excellence in the TLA family of organizations.
» Ensure that UA policies, procedures and practices related to technology commercialization are congruent with academic values, business practices and market conditions.
» Invest in building a broad-based, strong portfolio of University intellectual property.
» Leverage the strengths of different external communities of technology enterprise interest to provide assistance and support for University technology commercialization.
» Create and measure sets of commercialization metrics that reflect quality, impact and context.
» Increase the exposure of UA research and student communities to technology commercialization.
» Create an early-stage funding mechanism to participate in UA startup investment rounds by providing capital alongside other professional investors.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

» Prospect, develop and sustain high-impact, high-value strategic relationships with companies through:
  · Establishing new company engagement teams with principals from the research-intensive colleges and units.
  · Collecting and reporting data regarding all UA industry-sponsored research.
  · Involving college partners in building active strategic relationships.
  · Holding matchmaking “Industry Days” for strategic partners and securing funding from these relationships.
  · Increasing the output of joint UA/corporate partner federal funding pursuits.
» Refine the University’s contracting practices through:
  · Preparing a practice statement on IP terms in industry sponsored research agreements.
  · Analyzing the opportunities and barriers to corporate engagement and developing strategies to overcome them.
  · Conducting annual satisfaction surveys with strategic company partners with the goal of measuring and demonstrating continuous improvement.
TECH PARKS ARIZONA STRATEGIES

- Provide greater focus on development that is synergistic to UA activities and interests, such as:
  - Exploring opportunities for greater collaboration between TLA, the UA Tech Parks and the Arizona Center for Innovation (AzCI).
  - Gathering park managers, board members, TLA leadership and senior representatives from various UA units to share perspectives, plans and activity updates.
  - Coordinating communications between TLA and Tech Parks Arizona to build better awareness, understanding and connection of the UA Tech Parks to the University community.

- Establish programs to engage companies that are related to research and commercialization at the University.
- Expand the testing, evaluation and demonstration programs related to UA research, such as the Solar Zone and Security Innovation Hub.
- Conduct a feasibility analysis of the potential for secured research and prototyping facilities for University and industry use.
- Conduct a feasibility analysis of an investment fund that supports Tech Parks Arizona tenants working to commercialize UA technologies.
- Make the Arizona Center for Innovation (AzCI) a key contributor to TLA programs to create and grow companies from UA research.
- Fund new infrastructure improvements supporting both Tech Parks Arizona sites at Rita Road and The Bridges.
- Continue to develop the Tucson Tech Corridor in partnership with Pima County, the City of Tucson, Vail, Imagine Greater Tucson and area companies and land owners.
- Participate in the development and execution of the aerospace and defense initiative with the UA and state and local partners to capitalize on regional strengths.

OVERALL TLA ENTERPRISES

- Build the TLA vision, message and accomplishments into UA communications by frequently circulating stories about UA commercialization activities, and promoting such information both internally at the UA as well as externally to the Tucson and regional communities.
- Work with President Hart to communicate the need for cross-cutting innovation, partnership, creative, positive disruption, 100% student engagement and measurable impact.
- Collaborate with political and civic leadership at the local, regional, state and national levels to communicate the change and accomplishments driven by TLA.
- Develop and disseminate clear and concise bulletins and process statements on commercialization topics.
- Build out the TLA team.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
IN FY 2014

We made great strides this past fiscal year. Based on our original commitments and discovering new areas of performance and impact, we completed our first year with a fully staffed team and an up-and-running operation. We addressed the vast majority of our objectives, however given the significant changes in structural and responsibility arrangements at the University level, a few objectives were deemed outside TLA’s scope. At the same time, we saw areas of need and proactively assumed new responsibilities.
TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

» Improved our invention disclosure process, making it faster and more user-friendly.
» Assessed our effectiveness and service orientation through verbal feedback and regular surveys with inventors.
» Built a best-in-class technology licensing team to provide services to faculty where they work, with embedded licensing managers in the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Optical Sciences, Science, Medicine, and Engineering, and in the Eller College of Management.
» Created well-received “Technology Commercialization” and “Idea-to-Asset” workshops to engage UA researchers and faculty in the technology commercialization enterprise.
» Published Practice Statements that explain our processes and help guide our customers.
» Established a TLA External Advisory Board to review performance and provide insight on new initiatives.
» Successfully collaborated with the Faculty Senate to add consideration of work in commercialization as part of Promotion and Tenure review.
» Facilitated 19 Proof-of-Concept (POC) and Commercial Feasibility Studies, bringing the total number of POC studies since TLA inception to 47.
» Created an enhanced suite of technology maturation programs including improvements to POC and Commercial Feasibility Studies, strategies for providing in-house business intelligence and the engagement of startup talent.
» Planned and hosted the first annual Catapult Awards to recognize excellence in and commitment to University technology commercialization.

» Collaborated with the UA College of Law to establish the Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic.
» Collaborated with University Libraries to develop business intelligence capabilities.
» Initiated the process of revising the UA Intellectual Property Policy.
» Streamlined ABOR process for review and approval of licenses to startups, including Conflict of Interest and Commitment review, and revision of A.R.S. 151635.01 removing the need for specific ABOR approval.
» Created and implemented Arizona Choice IP licensing arrangements for corporate research partners, an approach that addresses licensing arrangements in corporate-sponsored licensing agreements.
» Implemented a policy of engaging external counsel to draft and prosecute all patent applications.
» Created the Wheelhouse Network consisting of over 750 vetted professionals nation-wide who have volunteered to help lead and mentor UA startup companies.
» Implemented the Student Fellows program, bringing in 10 students per cohort to gain experience and participate in assessing the potential of newly disclosed inventions.
» Established the TLA Ambassadors Program, a partnership with the Graduate Professional Student Council, to connect students with resources for bringing their business ideas to market.
» Created the Catapult Corporation, a 501(c)(3) designed to provide matched early-stage investment capital for UA startups.

We have integrated all the aspects of technology commercialization into a unified methodology for bringing research to the marketplace.
INDUSTRY-SPONSORED RESEARCH

» Completed business plan work on the Defense and Security Research Institute (DSRI) and initiated similar work with two prospective centers: Arizona Center for Accelerated Biomedical Innovation (ACABI) and the Water and Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center.

» Secured a position for the University of Arizona into the Multi-University Research Agreement (MURA) with Google to expedite research collaborations with the company’s Advanced Technology and Projects group (ATAP).

» Orchestrated exploratory campus visits and/or new relationships with over a dozen global companies (or segments of those companies) with no previous experience with the UA.

» Identified top prospects in Phoenix for expanding research collaborations.

» Provided “front door” responses to over 50 inquiries from businesses about engaging with the UA.

TECH PARKS ARIZONA

» UA Tech Park on Rita Road:
  · Housed over 40 companies and organizations employing over 6,000 individuals.
  · Executed $3.25 million in facility improvements and expansions.

» Revised the business model for AzCI, placing a greater focus on product development, as well as testing and evaluation activities.

» UA Tech Park – The Bridges (formerly the Bio Park):
  · Financed and executed the land option to expand the park footprint by 11 acres.

» General accomplishments:
  · Created, communicated and initiated execution of Tech Parks Arizona’s strategic plan with a major business attraction focus on integration with UA missions.
  · Secured a US Department of Commerce planning grant for regional advanced manufacturing initiative and submitted a proposal for multi-year federal funding.
  · Broadened educational outreach activities and expanded the internship program in support of the UA’s Never Settle Plan and 100% Student Engagement goal.
  · Created the “Global Advantage” business attraction program and initial market testing with Israel and Mexico.
  · Received recognition and awards from the Metropolitan Education Commission, Vail Community Action Board, Public Relations Society of Southern Arizona, Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation and American Advertising Federation Tucson.
  · Developed a new communications program for Tech Parks Arizona, including a new website and monthly newsletter, and published a special section in the BizTucson Summer 2014 edition.

OVERALL TLA ENTERPRISE

» Organized and executed a TLA marketing and communications strategy that is placing TLA in the minds of faculty, stakeholders and thought leaders.

» Coordinated closely with University Relations to move TLA news out into local, regional and national media outlets; delivering on average two major stories per month.

» Launched the TLA Fast Forward monthly newsletter.

» Published a mid-year report on successes, metrics and accomplishments in Winter 2014.

» Teamed with UA Colleges and related units to place TLA-themed stories in communications for their constituents and stakeholders.

» Created a multi-year financial plan that demonstrates sources and uses of financial resources and projects for TLA to achieve financial self-sufficiency by 2022.

» Organized planning, initial funding contacts, legal work and first board of directors meeting for the newly formed Catapult Corporation.

» Articulated funding priorities for the Arizona NOW campaign and initiated fundraising activities.

» Engaged support for the TLA mission at the highest levels of University leadership, from the President, Provost and Vice President for Research to the Deans of the research-intensive colleges to departmental and research center leadership and beyond.

» Worked to position the University within the framework of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council’s Velocity steering committee and strategic plan for economic transformation.

» Hired all key positions to complete the core TLA team, including an embedded licensing manager for each of the key research-intensive colleges.
PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED

167

These inventions from the UA came from the fields of optical sciences, medicine, biomedical engineering, mechanical engineering, software, and chemistry.

EXCLUSIVE LICENSES SIGNED

39

Our goal was 35 exclusive licenses, and we executed a total of 72 exclusive and non-exclusive licenses. We focus specifically on exclusive licenses because they convey intellectual assets that can be developed into products. Non-exclusive licenses do not carry the potential value of exclusive licenses.

PATENTS ISSUED

24

58% of these have been licensed or optioned.

OCCUPANCY

92.5%

of 1,895,770 rentable square feet of space at the UA Tech Park on Rita Road. For comparison, the Tucson average occupancy for similar space is 88.4%.

COMPANIES BENEFITED

20

from the coaching, planning and leadership development services of the Arizona Center for Innovation (AzCI) incubator. Half of these were UA startups and half were businesses from around the community and the region.

IN REVENUE FROM INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

$1.6 MILLION

Consisting of patent reimbursements and royalty income, this total represents a growth of 20% over last year’s number.
INVENTION DISCLOSURES
We surpassed our goal of 180 and set a new bar, registering the most inventions ever reported in a single year at the UA.

IN ECONOMIC IMPACT GENERATED FROM THE UA TECH PARK
This includes direct impact in terms of salaries paid to employees, as well as the indirect and induced impacts comprising employee spending, additional jobs resulting from infrastructure improvements and new development, and the ongoing activities at the UA Tech Park.

$2.3 BILLION

APPROXIMATELY

750

VETTED MEMBERS IN THE COMMERCIALIZATION ADVISORY NETWORK
These individuals donate time and deep experience to define and act on the commercial potential of University technologies.

NEW COMPANIES
While most licenses are granted to existing companies, when it comes to turning inventions into societal and economic impact, startup companies are a viable route.

PROJECTS FACILITATED THROUGH $416,091 IN PROOF-OF-CONCEPT (POC) FUNDING
Since our inception, TLA has funded a total of 38 POC projects and commercial feasibility studies to prove the market viability of promising UA-born technologies.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS
Throughout the year, TLA offered researchers across the University access to practical information and helpful people to assist them in transforming ideas into assets, and assets into impact.

188

11

19

22
ABOR has given TLA a goal of 190 disclosures. We are targeting a stretch goal of 200.

In FY 2014, we surpassed our ABOR goal of 9 startups. We plan to do the same in FY 2015, starting 13 companies, 3 more than the ABOR goal.

Our $1.6 million in intellectual property income represents a 20% growth over last year. Next year, our goal is $2.9 million.
In FY 2014, TLA funded a total of $416,091 in awards for POC projects. In FY 2015, we anticipate expanding the program to over $700,000 in funding.
TLA has become an integral part of the UA campus community. Our leadership and staff are active on policy and leadership committees, participate in shared governance, and engage in classroom presentations.

We contribute via community economic development groups such as Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities (TREO) and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC).

On the national level, we participate in discussions on IP licensing and present to top professional organizations, such as the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

All of these activities and accomplishments have prepared us for the road ahead.
Since TLA was founded in 2012, our focus has been on creating and strengthening the ecosystem of invention and commercialization at the UA. We have dedicated new resources toward identifying, protecting and developing intellectual property, and have re-engineered the teams and processes to fulfill our vision.

Everything we undertake on the road ahead will be focused on three synergistic approaches:

**LISTEN.** We will listen to the needs of the UA, the Tucson community, Arizona and appropriate constituents across the nation.

**PARTNER.** We will partner with small, medium and large businesses and corporations, non-profits, student organizations, alumni and others to rally as many resources as possible to help the UA reach its commercialization goals.

**DELIVER.** By way of our integrated strategies and a transparent, customer-focused orientation, we will deliver UA-born inventions and businesses to the world.

We will continue to expand on our efforts to energize and grow the commercialization ecosystem at the UA and across the region.
TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

We will build upon our operational experience by taking the first steps toward implementing an online inventor portal and further developing our technology marketing capabilities. We will also grow our partnership with the University Libraries to provide top-quality business intelligence essential to effective technology commercialization.

In partnership with the UA Foundation, we will expand the UA’s Proof-of-Concept program, raising $350K from donors and awarding 22 projects in the coming year. We will raise $200K to expand our student engagement programs. We will also provide services to the Catapult Corporation as it completes fundraising and prepares to make its first investments.

Beyond the UA, we will grow our collaborations with the entrepreneur and investment communities. We will continue to expand our 750 member domain expert network and work with businesses across the region through a strategic initiative to become a national leader in winning SBIR awards.

We will continue to set the bar high, aiming to exceed the goals ABOR has set for TLA while meeting our own internal targets.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to cultivate our relationships with technology companies and defense industry partners around the region and the nation.

We will help grow the UA’s research capacity through facilitating partnerships to create business development propositions for centers and institutes. As we continue to develop the Defense and Security Research Institute (DSRI), TLA will also play an important role in the formation of the Water and Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center, the Arizona Center for Accelerated Biomedical Innovation (ACABI), and a new, yet-to-be-named mining innovation center.

As we expand our partnerships, we will also expand our geographic reach, developing a strong strategic presence to engage Phoenix-area businesses in research collaboration.

We will continue to work with economic development and technology leadership organizations throughout Arizona to further integrate the UA into the fabric of the business community.

2015 PERFORMANCE METRIC TARGETS

200 INVENTION DISCLOSURES

17 ISSUED PATENTS

13 NEW COMPANIES FORMED, 4 INVESTABLE BY CAT CORP

38 EXCLUSIVE LICENSES/OPTIONS

70 TOTAL AGREEMENTS

155 PATENT APPLICATIONS
TECH PARKS ARIZONA

We will execute a development plan to leverage synergistic connections between between Tech Parks Arizona tenants and the UA's research strengths and capabilities. In doing so, we will focus initially on providing testing and evaluation assistance for the Colleges of Engineering and Optical Sciences.

We will also develop stronger connections between the parks, our neighboring communities and Tucson. We will integrate Tech Parks Arizona into the Pima County economic development bond program. Doing so will fund the construction of an Innovation Building at the UA Tech Park – The Bridges, and the implementation of Science Park Road and other infrastructure improvements at the UA Tech Park on Rita Road. We will also develop agreements with private sector partners to continue to develop both properties.

We will begin the second phase of the Solar Zone, developing an additional 25 acres of land and activating the UA/TEP solar test yard #2.

Going forward, we will integrate the programs and services of AzCI more directly into the goals, strategies and operations of TLA, with a focus on UA startups. We will also grow our services for these new ventures, providing business assistance, as well as product design, prototyping, testing, evaluation, demonstration and first generation manufacturing.

OVERALL TLA ENTERPRISE STRATEGIES

Our vision remains ambitious and closely integrated with the UA's Never Settle strategic plan.

Synergistic partnerships and collaborations will continue to be core strategies for creating impact. For example, we will continue to develop the Catapult Corporation – raising $7.5 million from donors in addition to the Brown Foundation commitment, getting IRS approval for nonprofit status – and make the first round of investments in new companies based on UA-born technologies.

To evaluate our success, we will collaborate with the VP of Strategic Planning to become an early-adopter of the integration of college performance metrics with TLA metrics.

We will also leverage the best expertise in technology commercialization to benefit the UA, the state and the nation. In the spring of 2015, we will host an invitation-only two-day summit bringing together fifty thought leaders in university technology commercialization from around the country.

We will make operational advancements to strengthen TLA’s foundation and future. We will initiate a long-term financial strategy to leverage the returns generated from the Tech Parks. We will also improve how we interact with our audiences through a fully re-designed and re-strategized web presence that will integrate all aspects of our organization, including technology transfer, new ventures, the commercialization network, corporate relations, student entrepreneurship support and Tech Parks.
We will continue to listen to the needs of the University of Arizona, our surrounding communities, our state and the nation.

We will partner with organizations within the UA, throughout the region and across the country to energize and grow the ecosystem.

And we will deliver, creating transformational economic and social impact for the UA, Tucson, our state and our world.
THE TECH LAUNCH ARIZONA TEAM

Bruce Wright
Associate Vice President, Tech Parks Arizona 
wrightb@u.arizona.edu

Doug Hockstad
Director, Technology Transfer 
douglassh@tla.arizona.edu

Samantha Bankston
Executive Associate, Planning & Project Management 
samanthab@tla.arizona.edu

Anita Bell
Acting Director, Arizona Center for Innovation 
anitab@azinnovation.org

RD Castillo
Corporate Relations Associate 
rdc@tla.arizona.edu

Paul Eynott
Licensing Manager, College of Sciences 
paule@tla.arizona.edu

John Geikler
Assistant Director, Physical Sciences Licensing 
johnng@tla.arizona.edu

Rakhi Gibbons
Assistant Director, Biomedical & Life Sciences Licensing 
rakhg@tla.arizona.edu

Molly Gilbert
Director, Community Engagement, Tech Parks Arizona 
mgilbert@uatechpark.org

Lewis Humphreys
Software & IT Licensing Manager, Eller College Embed 
lewish@tla.arizona.edu

John Jackson, Sr.
Manager, Business Intelligence Unit 
johnj@tla.arizona.edu

Janet Kisinger
Intellectual Property Manager 
janetk@tla.arizona.edu

Joann MacMaster
New Ventures 
joanmm@tla.arizona.edu

Kenneth Marcus
Director, UA Tech Park & Chief Financial Officer, Campus Research Corporation 
kmarcus@uatechpark.org

Tod McCauley
Licensing Manager, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences 
todm@tla.arizona.edu

Amy Phillips
Licensing Manager, College of Optical Sciences 
amyp@tla.arizona.edu

Grace Ratje
Manager, Finance & Administration 
griseldar@tla.arizona.edu

Bob Sleeper
Licensing Manager, College of Engineering 
roberts@tla.arizona.edu

Paul Tumarkin
Marketing & Communications Manager 
pault@tla.arizona.edu

Jessa Turner
Senior Manager for Communications, Tech Parks Arizona 
jturner@uatechpark.org

Betsey Wagener
Licensing Manager, College of Medicine 
betseyw@tla.arizona.edu

Jennifer Watson
Technology Commercialization, Wheelhouse 
jenw@tla.arizona.edu

Sherry Hoskinson
Director, New Ventures & Wheelhouse 
sherryh@tla.arizona.edu

David Allen
Vice President 
davida@tla.arizona.edu

(names in order left to right)
Tracy Bibeau  
Executive Assistant, Tech Parks Arizona  
tbibeau@uatechpark.org

Donna Callies  
Administrative Associate  
donnac@tla.arizona.edu

Emilia Fajardo  
Administrative Associate  
emiliaf@tla.arizona.edu

Bernadette Franco  
Accounting Supervisor/Human Resources, Tech Parks Arizona  
bfranco@uatechpark.org

Ralph Hershberger  
Mentor in Residence

Brenda Hough  
Community Outreach Coordinator, Tech Parks Arizona  
bhough@uatechpark.org

Edward James  
Research Assistant

Sherry Jameson  
Administration Associate  
sherryj@tla.arizona.edu

Craig Kleine  
Information Technology Officer, Tech Parks Arizona  
kleinecr@email.arizona.edu

Gus Loaiza  
Accountant  
gusl@tla.arizona.edu

Peter Loya  
Tenant & Employee Relations Coordinator, Tech Parks Arizona  
peter@uatechpark.org

Jianling Liu  
Sr. Business Analyst  
jianling@tla.arizona.edu

Patrick Murphy  
Facilities and Construction Manager, Tech Parks Arizona  
pmurphy@uatechpark.org

Norma Naito  
Program Coordinator  
norman@tla.arizona.edu

Oscar Parra  
Coordinator, New Ventures & Wheelhouse  
oscarp@tla.arizona.edu

Kristin Petersen  
Administrative Assistant, Arizona Center for Innovation  
ksaad@azinnovation.com

Brendan Reed  
Business Development Associate, Tech Parks Arizona  
bhreed@uatechpark.org

Rosa Saucedo  
Accountant, Associate  
rosa@tla.arizona.edu

Naomi Weiner  
Project Coordinator

Kathy Williams  
Office Manager, Tech Parks Arizona  
kathyw@uatechpark.org

Linda Velazquez  
Executive Assistant  
lindav@tla.arizona.edu

TLA Ambassadors  
ambassadors@tla.arizona.edu  
Zachary Brooks  
Ryan Gyure  
William Kovacs  
Dominic Villella