Tech Launch Arizona
Annual Report 2016

Bringing the inventions of the University of Arizona from the lab to the world.
Tech Launch Arizona

WE CREATE
social and economic impact through bringing the inventions of the University of Arizona from the lab to the world.

WE CULTIVATE
conversations to refine ideas that start in the lab and grow them into new products and thriving businesses that benefit society.

WE BUILD
connections between the talents of our faculty and researchers and the experience of entrepreneurs and investors.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
I am incredibly proud of the achievements that Tech Launch Arizona (TLA) has had since its start in 2012. With almost 800 inventions disclosed, 40 startups from UA research, a growing ecosystem of technical experts, business partners, faculty, students, and staff, TLA is helping to set a strong foundation for the University of Arizona’s continuing impact and excellence.

TLA’s ecosystem reaches throughout the UA community in unexpected ways to include units like Academic Affairs and University Information Technology Services alongside academic departments and community partners in order to create market opportunities for UA inventions. This breadth advances TLA and the University’s impact by creating deeply innovative processes that leverage paths to success. The newly established Mentors-in-Residence program and the growing Asset Development program are just two of the recent ways TLA is bringing UA research and inventions to the world.

This success has received important recognition this year, with the UA’s designation as an NSF I-Corps site and TLA’s being awarded Innovator of the Year at the Governor’s Celebration of Innovation. These honors reflect TLA’s dedication to discovering new ways to enrich lives and improve the prospects for the many communities we serve.

MOVING FORWARD
Last year, we told you how we are connecting people, resources and ideas to build a new kind of commercialization ecosystem. This year, we have extended that work and have gone broader and deeper.

We have broadened our work. We have grown our commercialization network and reinvigorated how we work with domain experts. We’ve increased our engagement with faculty across the University, collaborating with them to uncover more inventions, create more startups, and license a record number of technologies.

We have deepened our reach. This year, 50 percent of our invention disclosures came from faculty we had not worked with before, and 50 percent resulted from collaborations with previous inventors. We have 20 commercialization partners and 4 mentors-in-residence to help us dig deeper into those technologies. We have a Business Intelligence Unit that’s become a key contributing factor in assessing technologies and compiling useful market research.

We continue to build our presence and our brand throughout the UA and the Arizona ecosystem as a service-oriented, responsive, dynamic, contributing member, bridging the business and academic communities.

As we move forward, we thank you for sharing this journey with us. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to build and strengthen the ecosystem.

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2015, TLA received $1.574M in royalty income plus a one-time settlement payment of $2.322M.
WE’VE GONE BROADER & DEEPER IN FY2016...

COMMERCIALIZATION PARTNERS
In FY2016, USDA-funded USDA Innovation Demonstration Initiative (IDEI) grants totaling over $2 million were awarded to UA researchers to commercialize their inventions. The IDEI grants support the creation of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses. The IDEI grants are supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

COMMERCIALIZATION NETWORK
With a focus on commercializing research and bringing the University’s inventions to the public for economic and social benefit, UA researchers have built a comprehensive network of 2,700+ advisors, 200+ entrepreneurial professionals, 200+ companies and a network of 65,000+ industry professionals. This network has been instrumental in helping UA researchers commercialize their inventions and bring new technologies to the marketplace.

INVENTION
In FY2016, UA researchers filed 71 patent applications and 59 copyright applications. This represents a significant increase from the previous year, indicating a growing interest in intellectual property protection and commercialization.

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COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT
In FY2016, UA researchers conducted 113 commercial assessments, a 30% increase over the previous year. This increase is attributed to the growing number of inventions being brought to market, highlighting the importance of assessing the market potential of these inventions.

CREATE TEAM
In FY2016, UA researchers formed 17 startup teams, 50% more than the previous year. This increase is a testament to the growing interest in entrepreneurship and the growing number of inventors looking to commercialize their inventions.

LICENSE
In FY2016, UA researchers licensed 39 inventions to 17 companies, a 30% increase over the previous year. This increase is attributed to the growing number of inventions being brought to market, highlighting the importance of licensing these inventions to companies.

MATURE & GROW
In FY2016, UA researchers matured 17 companies, 50% more than the previous year. This increase is a testament to the growing interest in entrepreneurship and the growing number of inventors looking to commercialize their inventions.

INNOVATION SUBSIDIES
In FY2016, UA researchers received $7.1 million in innovation subsidies, a 50% increase over the previous year. This increase is attributed to the growing number of inventions being brought to market, highlighting the importance of providing financial support to inventors.

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OUR 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 and bringing the University’s inventions to the public for economic and social benefit.

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David Allen, Ph.D., Vice President
Douglas Hockstad, Senior Director, Technology Transfer
Joann MacMaster, Director, Business Development
Bruce Burgess, Mentor-in-Residence
Paul Eynott, Senior Licensing Manager, College of Science
John Geikler, Assistant Director, Physical Sciences Licensing
Rakhi Gibbons, Associate Director, Biomedical & Life Sciences Licensing
Lewis Humphreys, Software & IT Licensing Manager, Eller College Embed
Janet Kisinger, Senior Intellectual Property Manager
Su Jun Lim, Business Intelligence Manager
Lisa Lin, Licensing Manager, College of Medicine
Tod McCauley, Senior Licensing Manager, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Kevin McLaughlin, Mentor-in-Residence
Amy Phillips, Senior Licensing Manager, College of Optical Sciences
Grace Ratje, Manager, Finance & Administration
Mike Sember, Mentor-in-Residence
Bob Sleeper, Licensing Manager, College of Engineering
Eric Smith, Commercialization Network Manager
Paul Tumarkin, Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications
Steven Wood, Mentor-in-Residence

TECH PARKS ARIZONA

Bruce Wright, Associate Vice President
Anita Bell, Acting Director, Arizona Center for Innovation
Justin Dutram, Director of Business Development
Molly Gilbert, Director of Community Engagement
Kenneth Marcus, Director, UA Tech Park & Chief Financial Officer, Campus Research Corporation
Patrick Murphy, Director of Planning, Facilities & Construction
Jessa Turner, Director of Communications

CONNECT.

Meet the entire TLA/TPA team at https://techlaunch.arizona.edu/staff.

http://techlaunch.arizona.edu/tla/newsletter
http://twitter.com/techlaunchaz
http://facebook.com/techlaunchaz
https://www.linkedin.com/company/9243050

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