



Oklahoma Innovation
I N S T I T U T E

***COMMUNITY PARTNERS
ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW***

July 2016

OKLAHOMA INNOVATION INSTITUTE UPDATE

OVERVIEW

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation committed to building an innovative economy in Oklahoma, with the central theme of “Research to High Impact Jobs”. OII functions as a thought leader, neutral convener and facilitator that fosters collaborative research and development, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, entrepreneurship, company creation and retention, life-long learning and creative, future-oriented thinking. These objectives are driven by private sector, government, education and philanthropic partnerships through the following OII initiatives: the Tulsa Research Partners, Tandy Supercomputing Center, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, Best Thinking Forum, BetaBlox Startup Incubator and Accelerator, and the planned Community Innovation Fund.



The Oklahoma Innovation Institute has become a leading voice, both regionally and nationally, as an advocate of innovative programming, creative thought and constructive problem solving, and is a positive and dynamic force in the continued economic growth of the region. Over the past year there has been a total of 116 media stories covering OII and our initiatives. This includes television, radio, print, and web media. The Tulsa World alone mentioned or covered OII or one of our initiatives as many as 25 times in the past year. Included with all of this media success is a new social media campaign. OII and its initiatives’ Facebook pages have received over 1,000 new likes within the past year. Twitter activity has grown as well with our accounts receiving a total of 581 new followers.

Throughout the first three years of operations, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute has continued to grow in both personnel and programmatic support. To accelerate the direct impact on entrepreneurs, OII launched a new TRP program to move technology out of the research lab and into the hands of capable entrepreneurs. OII also partnered with BetaBlox, a startup accelerator and incubator program which has helped start over 100 companies in Kansas City. The expansion of BetaBlox to Tulsa will help create a larger mentor pool for both cities and will help stimulate quick entrepreneurial progress in Tulsa, based on the same program that has a proven company success rate that is twice the national average.

There is also tremendous evidence that the partnership between the Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) and the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) continues to show direct impact into our community and has become a foundational building block for additional local, regional, state and even national projects for the future. As programs grow and mature, there does come a time where the retention or transition of a program needs to be considered. Because of the rapid growth and early success of the TRSA initiative, OII explored TRSA’s second stage of growth and began the transition of this initiative into its own 501(c)(3). After this transition, OII will continue to serve as a founding strategic advisor and hold a seat on the new governance board that is established. OII continues to passionately believe in the mission and vision of TRSA and will work towards advancing the goals of TRSA in the future, however we do feel strongly that the time to transition the TRSA initiative to a new form of governance is now and such a transition best serves the long term needs of our regional STEM community.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII), like other non-profits, must find resources for sustainability. OII has received funding from private donors, foundations and grants to build new assets and create new programs. However, we must create a pool of funds for existing overhead expenses each year so our initiatives may continue to provide services to the community. With this in mind, OII is currently formalizing an advancement program under the guidance of an institutional mentor. In addition, over the last year we have explored several opportunities for sustainability. Of those, we determined that a membership model, quarterly lecture series, and the fees for use of the Tandy Community Supercomputer, would serve as our primary resources for overhead expenses.

Membership Model

Over the last few months OII has developed a new membership model with five levels of participation, from Individual to President's Partner. These membership levels will allow supporters a new way to contribute to OII, and receive membership benefits like a quarterly newsletter, discounted sponsorships, invitations to events, access to the upcoming commercialization portal, use of the Tandy Community Supercomputer, and more. A significant portion of each paid membership is considered a tax deductible donation.

OII Lecture Series

In order to inspire, engage, and empower innovation in the Tulsa area, a quarterly lecture series is being designed to highlight different areas of innovation. The lecture series will feature top tier speakers from business, academia, and entrepreneurship. They will bring innovation to the forefront of the minds of our community and business leaders so the Tulsa region will not be left behind in this rapidly changing world. For fund generation we will charge a fee for the attendees, have booths for interested vendors, and offer sponsorships for events.

Tandy Community Supercomputer

The Tandy Supercomputing Center (TSC) was built to bring a unique resource and source of innovation to Tulsa that is financially out of reach for most of our companies. When Tandy was originally built, compute nodes were reserved for use by local businesses and entrepreneurs. Through these reserved nodes entrepreneurs in their first 1-3 years of business could use the supercomputer at no cost, while other businesses would pay a small fee for use. Businesses using the supercomputer are asked to become a supporting member of OII at the Tandy membership level or above, then pay for use in core hours for each node utilized. This new subscription model results in a very low cost for the use of a top tier resource and provides access to the expertise of our computer scientists on staff.

Grant Development

Since our work began in 2013, OII and its initiatives has directly or indirectly attracted over \$15 million in new grants to the state. Our staff is continually working to identify funding opportunities for our OII and our member organizations. Recently OII applied for and received a federal grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for use by its Tulsa Research Partners (TRP) initiative, to build a new technology transfer, research collaboration and commercialization web portal in collaboration with Tulsa's five major higher education institutions: The University of Tulsa, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa Community College, and Oral Roberts University. In addition, OII submitted its new technology transfer, research collaboration and commercialization web portal project to the EPSCoR RII Track 1 competition to support a second phase statewide launch of the platform in 2017. These are just a few examples of how OII and its staff are constantly exploring ways to bring new research dollars into our state. OII's initiatives and their collaborations continue to support our mission ensuring the ongoing economic growth of our community.

TULSA RESEARCH PARTNERS

Tulsa Research Partners (TRP) is an historic research collaboration and sharing of resources among four major higher education institutions: The University of Tulsa (TU), OSU-Tulsa, OU-Tulsa and Tulsa Community College. Throughout our next stage of growth, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) will continue to enhance staffing and researcher support for grant identification and research matching, technology transfer, commercialization and market identification leading to the creation of capital formation resources for emerging growth companies in the Tulsa region.

New Members

Tulsa Research Partners is proud to announce the addition of two new academic partners in 2016, Oral Roberts (ORU) and Northeastern State (NSU) Universities. The entry of Oklahoma's 2nd largest private and 4th largest public universities now allows OII to reach over four fifths of full time faculty and three quarters of college students in the Tulsa region. In addition, 9 out of 10 graduate and professional students in the Tulsa Combined Statistical Area (CSA) attend TRP institutions.

Community Technology Transfer and Commercialization

Tulsa Research Partner's (TRP) new technology transfer, research collaboration and commercialization initiative is deploying a technology platform which will facilitate and support the transition of ideas, technologies and prototypes from the research lab into the marketplace as commercially viable products and solutions. This new platform is designed to highlight regional research collaborations, uncover innovations available for commercial transfer and unlock the potential of Oklahoma's research laboratories to entrepreneurs and the private sector. For researchers, it will raise their visibility and help identify funding opportunities, key resources and potential collaborators in the community. For the private sector, this portal will accelerate access to scientific tools and resources, identify faculty who can support commercial initiatives, and match research expertise with industry needs. The true value of this new system is its ability to facilitate collaboration on a regional level, and connect industry and entrepreneurs to the appropriate academic resources in a timely fashion.

A key area of need in the execution of large scale collaborative projects is a reliable process and platform for communication. Often the largest barrier to progress in research, entrepreneurship and commercial enterprise is quickly identifying available assets that will help create forward momentum. Creating a clear asset map and collaboration tool to accelerate research and commercialization is a high priority for the Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII). OII's objectives are to increase collaborative, multidisciplinary research among regional institutions and private sector groups; attract new major investment and research dollars to the region; and improve the technology transfer and commercialization process to foster a stronger technology startup culture in the Tulsa region.

To assist in achieving our community technology transfer and commercialization objectives, OII was recently awarded a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to pilot an innovation exchange in the Tulsa region. Through this grant OII was able to add Chase Curtiss to our team as OII's new Commercialization Director. Chase brings a strong expertise in digital product design, technology transfer and software development. In addition, this EDA grant will allow OII to build the framework for a digital collaboration platform linking TRP member researchers with each other and with industry and entrepreneurial community members in Tulsa. Although the EDA grant provides the initial funding to build basic features and begin testing the platform in the Tulsa region, it does not provide funding for a larger statewide deployment of the platform. Looking towards the future, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute and the Tulsa Research Partners have recently applied for EPSCoR RII funds to support a second phase statewide launch of the platform. The next phase of this project will focus on improved data acquisition and continued software development to create a commercially licensable system that can generate revenue from research institutes outside of the state and provide a path to sustainability.

Tulsa Research Day 2015

Tulsa Research Partners (TRP) hosted its 3rd annual Tulsa Citywide Research Day in November 2015 at The University of Oklahoma Schusterman Center. Tulsa Research Day is a free, daylong conference for Oklahoma academic researchers to share their work with others in the Tulsa community. This year's theme was Bioinformatics and High Performance Computing. Keynote speakers Dr. Stephen Wheat, Director of HPC Pursuits at Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Dr. Monica Martinez-Canales, Principal Engineer and Director of Big Data for Science and Technology at Intel spoke on the future of bioinformatics and high performance computing. This year's event showed significant growth in all areas.

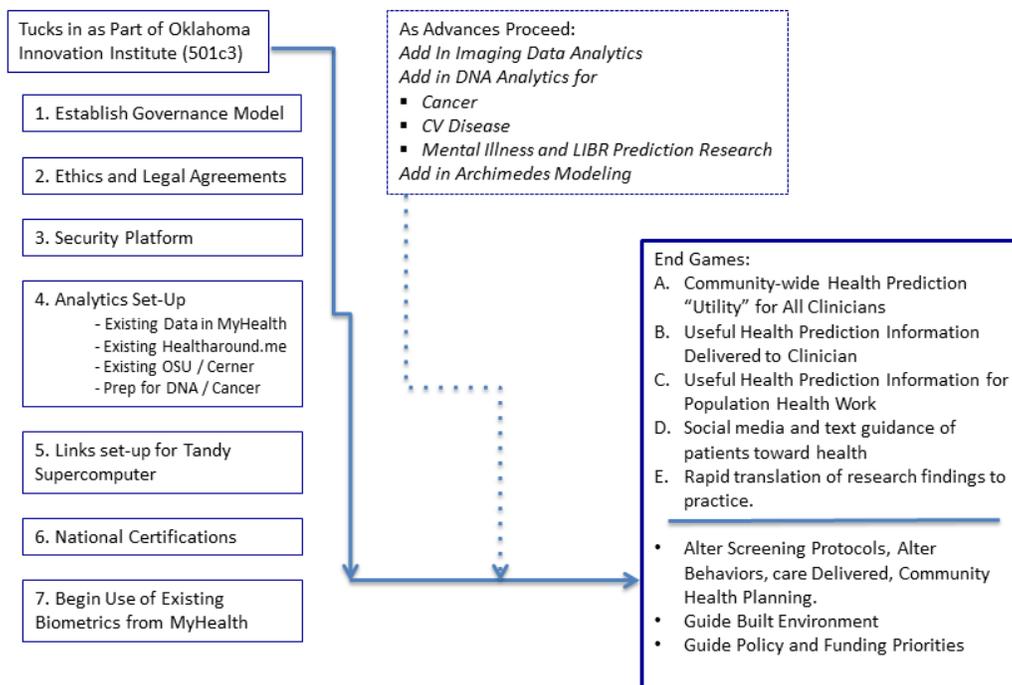
Tulsa Research Day	2014	2015
Attendees	120	265
Posters	23	74
Presentations	12	23
Post-Secondary Institutions	5	12
K-12 Institutions	2	8

In addition to the research day activities, TRP added a researcher mixer focused on bioinformatics researchers. This new event was very well received and allowed for 46 targeted researchers to make short presentations on their research interests and to meet other researchers with similar interests.

Oklahoma Health Prediction Center

Tulsa Research Partners continue to lead an effort to establish the Oklahoma Health Prediction Center. The center would provide a cutting edge data analytics platform to local health care providers that would integrate patient health information with the latest research findings to drive improved outcomes and lower costs. Over the past year there have been several meetings with TRP leadership, Intel and Hewlett Packard Enterprise to develop a draft roadmap for establishing the center. That roadmap is shown in the drawing below:

Oklahoma Health Prediction Center – Blue Print



TANDY SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER

The Tandy Supercomputing Center (TSC) offers the nation's first community supercomputer, providing access to academic, corporate, government and entrepreneurial growth companies needing high performance computational capabilities. The mission of the Tandy Supercomputing Center is to amplify research and development for our members and the Tulsa community through advanced computing and flexible, personal support. High performance computing increases the efficiency of research while decreasing the time it takes to transition products to market. The result is a competitive advantage in the development of new technologies, commercially viable products and new company formations. TSC provides the following services:

Flexible, Personal Support

The Tandy Supercomputing Center's operations and support team has changed in the last year. Our senior systems administrator has transitioned to a leadership position in research IT at another institution. Since then, two new administrators have joined the TSC team, bringing a combined skill and experience set encompassing everything from public schools, higher education classrooms, and research software companies to mission-critical enterprise services and small business consulting. Already Ryan and Tyler have proved invaluable members of the TSC team who are highly capable at providing the flexible, personal support of TSC projects that our users have come to expect.

Powering Economic Growth

TSC is one of the few centers in the country available to private sector membership, helping Tulsa companies get ahead of the curve in research and development, manufacturing, and data analytics. Companies turn to supercomputers when a problem is too small, too large, too fast, too slow, too dangerous, or too expensive to work on directly – from predicting storms or crash-testing vehicles to developing new drugs.

The supercomputing center has provided free services to over 10 companies in the form of advice and technology proofs of concept. TSC is now actively pursuing additional companies interested in pilot programs or proofs of concept with the goal of recruiting private sector members to the center. Free access to the supercomputer is also available for entrepreneurs and early-stage companies.

Attracting Research Dollars

Since its inception in 2013, by supporting proposals, advising, and directly applying for funding, TSC has helped to attract over \$5.8 million in external funding to the Tulsa area, including \$1.9 million in new funding since last year's report. TSC supported projects' funding sources run the gamut from federal National Science Foundation and Defense Department grants to state OCAST contracts and private industry consortia. By attracting significant federal research dollars, helping recruit new faculty and companies, building shared resources and new collaborations, supporting private R&D, and leveraging other community resources, the Tandy Supercomputing Center has been a success.

Amplifying Research and Development

As of July 2016, TSC has served over 140 individual researchers from TU, OSU-Tulsa, OSU-CHS, OU-Tulsa, TCC, and ORU. NSU usage is expected to begin at the start of the 2016 fall semester. System utilization continues to be extremely high, with demand at the founding institutions frequently outpacing the availability of computing power. Expansion plans are in the early stages targeting a 2017 refresh of key components of

New Business

Development Capability

In pursuit of the Tandy Supercomputing Center's business development goals to expand membership, Oll hired a new Business Development Executive in the first quarter of 2016. This individual is tasked with attracting a commercial base of users from corporations, public and governmental agencies, the private sector, small business, academia, and emerging growth companies. She is responsible for Oll's overall business development but in 2016 is focused on growing the supercomputing center. In support of these efforts, TSC has developed new subscription based membership agreements for the private sector as well as academic use.

Tandy. After limited success with our previous model for industrial engagement, TSC has adopted a new strategy. In consultation with local engineering firms, software vendors, and national leaders in HPC, we have modified our membership and pay-per-use model of the Tandy Supercomputing Center to be more appealing to private businesses. This new strategy was launched over the second quarter of 2016, and as a result we are currently engaged in a proof of concept evaluation with a major potential user.

Building Academic Partnerships

The last year has seen the addition of Northeastern State University (NSU) and Oral Roberts University (ORU) to Tulsa Research Partners and the Tandy Supercomputing Center. Oral Roberts University has leveraged its investment in virtual reality and distance learning to add high performance computing as a new capability to its faculty and students. ORU users are beginning to use the supercomputer for computational chemistry, physics, mechanical engineering design, and machine learning applications. Northeastern State University is expected to begin use of Tandy at the start of their 2016 fall semester. Early adopters are expected to span the Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, and Biology disciplines. NSU's investment in the Tandy Supercomputing Center is a part of their overall strategy to position NSU's Broken Arrow campus as their center of excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

TULSA REGIONAL STEM ALLIANCE

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) is a collaborative alliance of over 90 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) organizations throughout the state to share resources and to substantially impact the effective delivery of STEM education and programs throughout our region. TRSA has established itself as a local, regional, and even national leader by focusing on effective communication, persistent calculation of impact, relentless collaboration, and tireless cultivation of the STEM ecosystem. The alliance has made remarkable strides in coalition building in just two years thanks to successful incubation under the OII umbrella. With a dedicated staff supporting the mission of the alliance members, TRSA has proved to be a successful collaborative role model for the region and beyond.

In May 2016, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance was fortunate to bring on additional staff to help accomplish its vision and goals. TRSA filled its Logistics Coordinator position and added a new Program Manager that oversees the SENSEational Science, OK Women in STEM, and Professional Development programs. These two additions are enabling TRSA to effectively scale and support STEM programming in the Tulsa region. As programs grow and mature, there does come a time where the retention or transition of a program needs to be considered. Because of the rapid growth and early success of the TRSA initiative, OII explored TRSA's second stage of growth and began the transition of this initiative into its own 501(c)(3). After this transition, OII will continue to serve as a founding strategic advisor and hold a seat on the new governance board that is established. OII continues to passionately believe in the mission and vision of TRSA and will work towards advancing the goals of TRSA in the future, however we do feel strongly that the time to transition the TRSA initiative to a new form of governance is now and such a transition best serves the long term needs of our regional STEM community.

Tulsa Charity Flight Night

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) was selected as a beneficiary for the Tulsa Charity Flight Night for a second year in September 2015 and received approximately \$450,000 in STEM programming support. This funding is empowering TRSA to impact more than 25,000 students in STEM programming during 2016. In addition, more than 500 educators will receive STEM professional development during 2016 due to the outstanding support of TRSA partners and Alliance members. Based on this year's success, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance was again selected as a beneficiary for the 2016 Tulsa Charity Flight Night.

Harvard Program in Education Afterschool & Resiliency (PEAR)

Thanks to the remarkable progress of TRSA and its Alliance members in STEM education, TRSA was invited, along with STEM communities in Boston and Austin to participate in a pilot with Harvard University's PEAR

initiative. TRSA has just completed the yearlong pilot and is working with Harvard to report out on the findings for 10 TRSA programs measuring the impact of STEM outreach. The research from this pilot program will be compiled in a national study on the work of various STEM organizations around the country. This spring TRSA also led the training of more than two dozen Alliance partners in becoming certified to evaluate the effectiveness of STEM programming through the Harvard PEAR Dimensions of Success (DoS) training. In the fall, TRSA will work with partners to marry the findings of the Harvard PEAR study on the impact on students involved in STEM programming to DoS evaluation of those same programs.

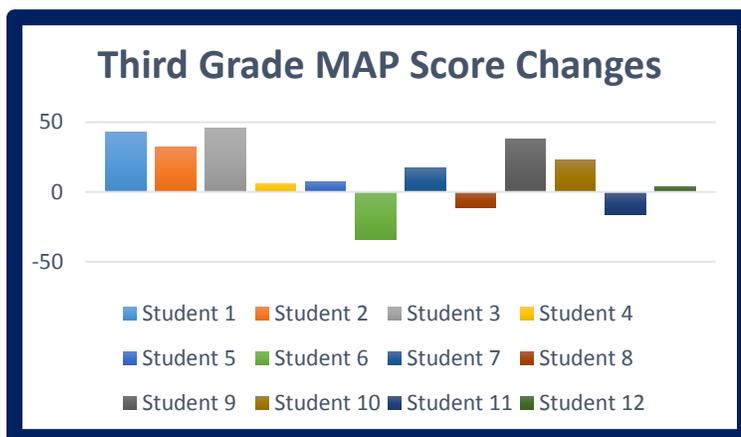
Me & My Math Mentor

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance dramatically scaled our math mentoring program called Me & My Math Mentor (M⁴) that targets increasing student’s proficiency in math facts. This 2015-2016 school year concluded with 150 M⁴ mentors engaging students in ten elementary schools across Tulsa. Math Mentors came from Williams, Baker Hughes, WPX, ONEOK, NORDAM, the University of Tulsa, and OSU Medical Center. By mentoring students just 30 minutes a week before or after school, these heroes changed lives! Currently TRSA is working with area mathematics professors and curriculum specialists to fine tune the materials that will be used in Math Mentors.

Me & My Math Mentor - Data

Quantitative

- Total of 300 students participated
- Preliminary results on Math Mentors MAP scores show significant gains for 78% of Math Mentor students
- HARVARD PEAR analysis of students engaged in Math Mentors also shows significant gains among Math Mentor participants in attitudes toward math and science as well as sense of belonging, peer relationships and adult relationships.



Local, State, and National Partnerships

As the TRSA dynamic mesh network matures, the city of Tulsa has become a recognized leader in STEM education. This work is in large part due to strong partnerships at the national, state, regional, and local levels. On the national front, TRSA is leading the charge as a US2020 City Network member. We are also working with California’s Orange County STEM Alliance as well as the national STEM Funders Network to establish protocols for building STEM ecosystems across the country. TRSA is working with Million Women Mentors and Harvard PEAR, in furthering STEM education and mentorship at the national level. Regionally, TRSA is working with Central Oklahoma STEM Alliance (COSTEMA) and MidAmerica Industrial Park (MAIP) to build their STEM alliances in partnership with STEM Funders Network, and Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM. On the state level through TRSA, Tulsa was the first city in Oklahoma to receive the STEM Community Designation from Governor Mary Fallin. Finally, TRSA is viable because of the strong local partnerships reflected in our 90+ Alliance members and 50+ Advisory Council members. Two key partnerships that have grown significantly over the past year are those with CAP Tulsa and SENSEsational Science. TRSA is thrilled to partner with such innovative organizations to work in STEM education in pre-school and work to strengthen the STEM capacity of educators from across the region. Tulsa is a city of generous doers investing in engaging, equipping and empowering tomorrow’s innovators.

Sponsored STEM Workshops and Events

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance greatly exceeded its 2015 goals and has established 2016 goals of providing 50,000 STEM programming hours, 7,500 professional development hours, and 20,000 mentorship hours. As of July 2016, TRSA has already exceeded or is making great strides toward these goals by providing approximately 63,000 STEM programming hours, 6,800 professional development hours, and 14,000 mentorship hours. Over the past year, TRSA engaged students and educators in a series of more than 100 high-quality, often multi-session events designed to inspire the next generation of innovators. Some of the highlight events included:

- Builders Club
- STEM Exploratorium
- Citywide Kite Festival
- Tulsa Research Kids
- STEM PD – Pawhuska
- STEM PD- Lawton
- USNA PD – Tulsa
- Me & My Math Mentor (M⁴)
- Women In STEM
- Engineer Signing Day
- Sonia Kovalevsky Day
- Flight Night Space Week
- Engineer Games
- USNA STEM Outreach
- TCC Engineering Club
- FIRST Robotics
- Scale Model Gingerbread Contest
- You're Kind of a Big Deal Banquet
- Quadcopter Teacher Institute
- CAP Tulsa
- Cardboard & Duct Tape Boat Regatta

Citywide Kite Festival

Thanks to generous sponsorship of Flight Night, Williams, and Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation as well as passionate partners like the University of Tulsa, Junior Achievement, Tulsa City-County Library, NORDAM, American Airlines, Greatest Stories Never Told, Broken Arrow Public Schools, Jenks Public Schools, CAP Tulsa and Tulsa Public Schools, TRSA was honored to lead a Citywide Kite Festival. Hundreds of Green Country teachers received a week long lesson plan that empowered them to teach a daily STEM lesson that was based on kites. More than 3,100 students built kites, over 20 classes had three to four visits from aerospace professionals, and approximately 1,000 students and teachers gathered on Harwelden Field at the University of Tulsa for a community kite flying event.

Flight Night Space Week

Leveraging key relationships with Space Foundation through our strong supporter Flight Night, TRSA brought a team of faculty from the Space Foundation and Astronaut Paul Lockhart to Tulsa to do STEM professional development as well as STEM outreach to more than 30 educators and over 10,000 elementary students through multiple site visits this spring. The Space Foundation is continuing to work with TRSA and collaborating on future space related outreach events.

STEM Summer Camps 2016

During the summer of 2016, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance is hosting 10 STEM camps for students and 6 sessions of professional development workshops for educators in the Tulsa and Lawton areas. In all, these summer STEM opportunities will reach 350 students and 120 educators with engaging educational enrichment.

- Code of Their Own
- Tech Trek Tulsa
- Camp T-Square
- Immersion Coding Camp
- SENSEsational Science (4 sessions)
- Cooking with STEM
- OTIP PD (2 sessions)
- CSI Camp
- Quadcopter PD (2 sessions)
- Sports Science Camp
- Robotics 4 U
- Native American Youth Leadership

TRSA Advisory Council

The TRSA Advisory Council is made up of approximately 60 members, representing businesses, organizations, education, government and nonprofit organizations. Advisory Council members serve on a volunteer basis for a minimum of two years. It is understood that Advisory Council members are responsible for maintaining an active role in advancing TRSA and its mission.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

Oklahoma Innovation Institute's (OII) Entrepreneurship Center initiative focuses on leveraging existing entrepreneurial resources and filling identified gaps by providing resources, education, training, promotion and networking to the research and entrepreneurial communities, including entrepreneurs, investors and children. OII currently has three core programs that focus on supporting technology commercialization from the lab to commerce. These three programs are Tulsa Research Partners' (TRP) new Collaborative Innovation and Commercialization (CIC) platform, the Tandy Supercomputing Center and our partnership with the BetaBlox startup accelerator program.

OII starts early in the entrepreneurial cycle by working with all of the regional research universities to improve research collaboration, grant applications and technology transfer through the Tulsa Research Partners. TRP recently received a federal grant from the Economic Development Administration to build a technology platform to map community resources, improve entrepreneurial collaboration and accelerate technology transfer from the TRP member institutions. OII is helping link together early stage innovation at regional research institutions with existing community resources like the Tandy Community Supercomputer to proven startup incubation which will accelerate high potential technology startups from lab to launch.

While other community organizations address many of the needs of Tulsa entrepreneurs, there is still a significant gap for very early stage companies and entrepreneurs needing to receive specific, start-up focused entrepreneur-to-entrepreneur training and mentorship. OII is focusing on building programs that will help accelerate high potential concepts from the idea phase through the early stages of business formation while leveraging expert mentors with experience in the markets. With this in mind, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute has contracted and partnered with BetaBlox, a successful accelerator and incubator program based in Kansas City, Missouri to expand its programs in Tulsa to fill this gap.

By leveraging OII's new technology transfer, research collaboration and commercialization platform to improve technology transfer out of TRP member institutions to entrepreneurs, providing these entrepreneurs with business startup and acceleration support through the BetaBlox program, and linking them with unique community resources like the Tandy Community Supercomputer, OII will greatly increase the number of high quality startups that will be better positioned to leverage Tulsa's existing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

BEST THINKING FORUM

The Best Thinking Forum modeled after the Aspen Institute provides a safe, calm harbor for civil and deliberative dialogue in order to timely confront the pressing issues of the day. Over a period of several years, the discussions of regionalization and the change in demographics of the region have been in the forefront of some of the challenges facing our citizenry. The Best Thinking Forum has been asked to collaborate with the regional community for a discussion of best thinking on a regional and national basis. Bringing together leaders in business, education, philanthropic foundations, government, religious and social service agencies for a rational and civil discourse on our future. All of these key leaders will be a part of this significant undertaking while our speakers will come from the battle lines of achievement of this type of dream. To date, OII has hosted three Best Thinking Forums that has brought national speakers to Tulsa and has received excellent community interest and support.

BetaBlox Program

BetaBlox has a proven methodology that can increase an entrepreneur's likelihood of success by more than twice the national average. Ten entrepreneurs are chosen at a time and put through a system designed to accelerate a startup's growth and increase its valuation. This is accomplished by providing a bundle of services including classes, mentors, one-on-one consultation, access to investors, and web design. Instead of charging for these services, BetaBlox secures a small piece of equity in the startup. This mutually aligns the BetaBlox team with that of the founding team to drive success.

COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND

The Community Innovation Fund is part of OII's phase 3 implementation plan and is designed to be a private investment/angel fund that will focus on providing growth capital for entrepreneurial opportunities generated from the Tulsa region and the State of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Innovation Institute will facilitate the creation of this fund which is designed to provide equity related financing to entrepreneurial ventures and help close the capital gap that currently exists for emerging growth companies. The five-year goals of the Community Innovation Fund are to invest in 15 to 25 growing companies and to attract \$200 million in capital to the region.

CONCLUSION

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute will continue to pursue its mission of building an innovative and entrepreneurial economy in the Tulsa region with the central theme of “**Research to High Impact Jobs**”. The Oklahoma Innovation Institute is committed to building an innovative economy in the Tulsa region by facilitating collaborative community initiatives and focusing on programs that fill existing gaps that assist in stimulating Tulsa's economy.

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