International News

STC hosted students and professors from Osaka Prefecture University (OPU) during the weeks of March 16th and 23rd as part of its professional internship academy. The group of seven visitors included four undergraduate and graduate students and three professors who spent the weeks at STC learning about university technology transfer and commercialization and entrepreneurship.

Located in Osaka, Japan, in the Kansai region, Osaka Prefecture University is known for its highly ranked programs in computer science, materials science, aerospace engineering, its extensive industry-academia collaborations, and its excellence in innovative research. Students Takahiro Sasaki, Kenji Adachi, Keitaro Ishiguro, and Ryoji Yamamoto from the engineering department were accompanied by Assistant Professor Yohsuke Nambu, Professor Yoshiro Akagi, and Professor Toshiyuki Matsui.

The program will be hosting another group of students from OPU during the week of September 21st.

Economic Development Forum (EDF)

On June 24th, UNM received a prestigious designation from the National Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) University. The designation is awarded in conjunction with APLU’s Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity (CICEP). Applicants work through a one-year lengthy and intensive process of institutional self-study and engagement with their community stakeholders to identify strengths, growth and improvement in university economic engagement efforts. The designation is valid for ten years.

The designation and its complementary awards program are given to APLU member universities that demonstrate excellence and leadership in planning, implementing and evaluating programs and initiatives that support regional economic development. The designation identifies institutions working to advance the engagement and economic well-being of their states, regions, and the nation through a variety of efforts.

“I believe our Rainforest in the Desert program, which is about empowering people to create innovation and economic value in their communities, helped UNM stand out from those applying for the designation,” said STC CEO Lisa Kuuttila who is UNM’s Chief Economic Development Officer. “Our unique programs, among them UNM’s internal (Economic Development Council) and external (Economic Development Forum) advisory groups, are focused on making the connections necessary for regional economic growth.”

Thirty member institutions have earned the IEP designation since the program’s inception in 2013. APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization of 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems and affiliated organizations dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

For more information about international programs and economic development, contact STC University Ventures & International Engagements Manager Eri Hoshi at ehoshi@stc.unm.edu or 505-272-7039.

Innovate ABQ News

On July 1st, Innovate ABQ, Inc. announced that it has selected a developer. Innovate ABQ, Inc. will be entering into a 90-day due diligence agreement with Signet Development.
Goodman Realty Group and Dekker Perich Sabatini for the development of the research and innovation district Innovate ABQ at the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Broadway Boulevard in downtown Albuquerque.

After three years of thoughtful and collaborative planning by UNM, STC.UNM, the City of Albuquerque, Nusenda Credit Union, and Bernalillo County, the Innovate ABQ, Inc. Board of Directors launched the RFP process April. Submissions, due June 1st, were received from a number of developers and after several rounds of discussions with the finalists, the Board unanimously chose the developer group led by Signet Development, The Goodman Realty Group and Dekker/Perich/Sabatini. The Signet group was selected because of their strong balance of local and national talent and experience with this type of project. A significant factor in their selection was a demonstrated understanding and enthusiasm for Innovate ABQ. The Signet group will have a 90-day exclusive right to conduct due diligence and do preliminary planning, after which they will submit a more detailed proposal for the project. At that time, the Innovate ABQ, Inc. Board will determine whether or not the Signet Group will be selected as the developer for the Innovate ABQ project.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Innovate ABQ Chairman and Interim President Terry Laudick stated: “We are very pleased to have a strong national-local team of developers interested in Innovate ABQ. It reflects our partnership's collective vision for the future of growth in the innovation district in Albuquerque.”

Joseph L. Cecchi VentureLab

Named after one of STC’s longest serving Board chairs, the Joseph L. Cecchi VentureLab is STC’s incubator, providing shared office space, business services, mentoring, advice, and a location for the specialized facilities and laboratories required to support new ventures.

In addition to its physical tenancy program, the CVL also offers a virtual tenancy program for those who don't need office space but want the benefits and amenities of an office for a low monthly fee. The virtual option includes a physical business address for use on business cards, letterhead, marketing materials and websites; mail collection according to the tenant’s instructions; access to conference rooms (available by reservation) with internet connectivity (including wireless) and ample parking for virtual tenants and their visitors; and program support from CVL student interns.

Cost for virtual tenancy includes two options: a monthly rate of $200 with no deposit amount required or a three-month, prepaid rate of $480 for the first three-months’ participation at a 20 percent savings and no deposit amount required; thereafter, for the pre-paid rate, the fee drops to $160 per month. A further discount is available for tenants under a current and active license/option agreement with STC.

So far in FY2015, the CVL has provided services to 18 virtual tenants.

For more information on CVL services or to apply for physical or virtual office space, contact STC University Ventures & Engagements Manager Cara Michaliszyn at cmichaliszyn@stc.unm.edu or 505-272-7297.

Economic Development Council (EDC)

Save the Date! Rainforest 2: The University of New Mexico Economic Development Summit 2015

STC.UNM and the University of New Mexico will be hosting the second Economic Development Summit on October 26, 2015. Join us at this exciting event to discuss the progress made since the first summit held in 2012. Also, be among those to help decide, Where do we go from here? Keynote speaker will be Greg Horowitt, co-author of The Rainforest: The Secret to Building the Next Silicon Valley, co-founder of T2 Venture Creation and Global CONNECT at the University of California at San Diego, and a Kauffman Fellow.

For more information about the summit, contact STC University Ventures & International Engagements Manager Eri Hoshi at ehoshi@stc.unm.edu or 505-272-7039.