Dear Members of the UO Research Community,

As the University of Oregon celebrated the launch of the first Oregon National Academy of Inventors (NAI) last year, I am especially proud to announce the induction of more than 40 of our patent holders during a recent ceremony that included the plaque presentation of the first NAI Medal of Invention to Professor Christina Fricker. The NAI is a member organization with strong representation of AAU institutions that supports academic inventions and the societal impact of university research.

"We're proud to be a part of this organization, which will allow us to recognize and encourage the many UO innovators, both past and present, for their groundbreaking work in research, the patents our inventors have received, and the positive impact their contributions make worldwide," said Chuck Williams, associate vice president for research and innovation. "The Oregon National Academy of Inventors serves as an integral part of the national network in supporting the recognition of the contributions of inventors to society and their organizations, particularly those in academic settings. Oregon is fortunate to have a long tradition of academic excellence and a large number of inventors within our academic community, and I am excited to see many of our inventors recognized for their outstanding work."  

The Oregon National Academy of Inventors was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. The Oregon National Academy of Inventors is a member organization of the National Academy of Inventors, which is dedicated to promoting the culture of innovation and the achievement of inventors in all fields of technology, and assisting in the commercialization of academic inventions. The NAI is a member organization with strong representation of AAU institutions that supports academic inventions and the societal impact of university research.

Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) will host the sixth annual Oregon CASE Awards during a virtual ceremony on May 28th at 3pm. The CASE Awards honor Oregon’s inventors who demonstrate excellence in research, academic success, and executive leadership. The virtual ceremony will feature the presentation of the Oregon Inventor of the Year Award, the Oregon Innovator of the Year Award, the CASE Award of Excellence, and the CASE Award of Merit.

This year, CASE will also honor the 40 inventors inductees into the Oregon National Academy of Inventors. In honor of Inventor’s Day, CASE is also hosting a Virtual Induction Ceremony on May 28th at 3pm. The event will feature a keynote address by Chief Innovation Officer of the University of Oregon, Dr. Jonathan Cleveland. The event will also feature a special appreciation video of University of Oregon inventors and their contributions to the world.

During the month of April 2018, faculty and staff at the University of Oregon received 25 new awards totaling more than $2.8 million in support of research activities. Faculty and staff who received awards included: Dr. Tony Johnson, associate professor of mechanical engineering; Dr. Jennifer Park, assistant professor of psychology; Dr. Elizabeth Sifuentes, associate professor of biology; and Dr. Kate Stuller, assistant professor of chemistry.

One of the main talking points when I went to talk with my representatives was to give examples as to why it is important for the university to have money to give to students to do their research. I was very impressed by the number of students and faculty working on projects that will have a real impact on the world. One of the most interesting projects I heard about was a project by a graduate student who is working on creating a new type of jellyfish that could be used for bioluminescent applications.

I hope you will join us for the CASE Awards ceremony on May 28th and the Oregon CASE Awards Induction Ceremony on May 28th at 3pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

David Conover
Vice President for Research & Innovation


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