

Welcome to the 12th Annual



# **INNOVATION CELEBRATION**

**Friday, March 3, 2017 - 5:30-8:30 pm**  
**Parkland College**

**#INNCEL**

Recognizing the entrepreneurial spirit on campus and in the community.

**[innovationcelebration.com](http://innovationcelebration.com)**

# AGENDA



## ABOUT INNOVATION CELEBRATION

FOELLINGER GREAT HALL

Innovation Celebration provides recognition of those individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions, taken risks, and provided leadership to ensure the continuing economic success of Champaign County, the ongoing success of the University's economic development mission, and the growth of entrepreneurial talent and energy in our community.

Innovation Celebration is not merely an award for accomplishment, but a benchmark of success for those outstanding individuals, organizations and corporations who are nominated and selected to receive this prestigious award.

Innovation Celebration is hosted by the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the University of Illinois, Parkland College, and community sponsors.

**5:30 pm: Hors d'oeuvres, Drinks, Networking & Live Music**

**6:30 pm: Opening Remarks & Award Presentations**

### Opening Remarks:

Craig Rost, EDC Executive Director

Laura Frerichs, UI Research Park Director

### Master of Ceremonies:

Lori Gold Patterson

### Award Presentations:

Innovation Transfer Award - University of Illinois

*presented by Dr. Robert J. Jones, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Chancellor*

Alexis Wernsing Innovation Award - University of Illinois

*presented by Dr. Robert J. Jones, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Chancellor*

Innovation in Engagement Award - Parkland College

*presented by Dr. Tom Ramage, Parkland College President*

Entrepreneurial Excellence: Social Venture Award

Entrepreneurial Excellence: Student Startup Award

Entrepreneurial Excellence: New Venture Award

Entrepreneurial Excellence: Paul Magelli Advocacy Award

Innovation: Economic Development Impact Award

Entrepreneurial Excellence: Management Award

Innovation: Longevity Award



**7:45 pm: Hors d'oeuvres, Drinks, Networking & Live Music**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS:  
**INNOVATION TRANSFER AWARD**

*Recognizes an individual or group from the University of Illinois whose research has resulted in either a discovery or a work with the potential for significant societal impact.*

**DR. FREDERIC KOLB**

Fred Kolb is the Cavanah Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics in the Crop Sciences Department at the University of Illinois. Dr. Kolb received his Ph. D. in Plant Breeding from Pennsylvania State University in 1987. Dr. Kolb’s research is on plant breeding and genetics in soft red winter wheat and spring oat, including variety and germplasm development and development of disease resistant varieties. Dr. Kolb teaches a course on Principles of Plant Breeding, and co-teaches Crop Sciences Professional Development. Since 2000, Dr. Kolb has also served as the Department of Crop Sciences Teaching Coordinator.

 [smallgrains.cropsciences.illinois.edu](http://smallgrains.cropsciences.illinois.edu)       [@UIUCSmallGrains](https://twitter.com/UIUCSmallGrains)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS:  
**ALEXIS WERNING INNOVATION AWARD**

*Recognizes an individual or team from the University of Illinois that has channeled their experience living with a disability into positive change through the creation of new products, environments, or protocols that enhance quality of life.*

**ARIELLE RAUSIN**

Arielle Rausin is from Cape Coral, FL and came to Illinois to race as a member of the Wheelchair Racing Team in the fall of 2012. She graduated from the College of Business at the University of Illinois in December of 2016. Arielle started Ingenium as a way to improve access for people with disabilities to adaptive sports. She knows that wheelchair racing has changed her life in many ways and wants to give others that opportunity.

 [ingeniummanufacturing.com](http://ingeniummanufacturing.com)       [@racingrausin](https://twitter.com/racingrausin)

**PARKLAND COLLEGE:**  
**INNOVATION IN ENGAGEMENT AWARD**

*Recognizes an individual or group at Parkland College who has shown support of the college’s community engagement mission.*

**JENNI FRIDGEN**

Jenni Fridgen is the Agriculture Program Director, Instructor of Precision Agriculture and Land Laboratory Director at Parkland College in Champaign, IL. In 2016, she was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to enhance Parkland’s Precision Agriculture curriculum. Prior to her role at Parkland College, she was a Precision Ag Technician with Helena Chemical Company and an Ag Information Specialist with Illini FS, a retail division of GROWMARK. Jenni is a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) and holds a BS in Chemistry from Southeast Missouri State and MS in Agronomy from Mississippi State University.

 parkland.edu     @parklandcollege


**ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE:**  
**SOCIAL VENTURE AWARD**

*Serve as change agents by creating and implementing sustainable solutions to reshape society, benefit humanity, and address social concerns.*

**YEP**

**Young Entrepreneurship Program - Champaign Unit 4 Schools**



The vision of the Young Entrepreneurs program is to help create a community where young people are empowered to take responsibility for their personal and professional future through creating and developing their own business plan to achieve financial independence. The mission of the Young Entrepreneurs Program is to promote entrepreneurship opportunities for their students, encouraging them, by providing the knowledge, resources and support necessary to create their own small business which in turn will enhance our local economy. By empowering their students through this program, they will transition into the workforce with a better chance to achieve their financial and professional goals.

 [champaignschools.org/pages/community/young-entrepreneurs-program](http://champaignschools.org/pages/community/young-entrepreneurs-program)     @Unit4Schools

**THE ART OF SCIENCE**

**Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology**

The Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB) at the University of Illinois created the Art of Science program to celebrate the power of the visual medium to tell stories about the natural world through vibrant images that transcend the boundaries of art and science. Showcasing the expertise of the Core Facilities microscopy suite at the IGB, each image is first captured as part of a research effort and then artistically enhanced; the appeal of each reaches beyond any traditional division between science and humanities, or between academia and society.

 [igb.illinois.edu/education/community-education](http://igb.illinois.edu/education/community-education)     @IGBIllinois

**AWARE**

**Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs**

The AWARE (Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs) program is a collaboration among the College of Engineering and the EnterpriseWorks incubator at the University of Illinois Research Park, and is being funded by a \$100,000 award from the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurship training, counseling, and networking. AWARE offers resources and an enhanced infrastructure that make the current entrepreneurial ecosystem more accessible to all.

 [researchpark.illinois.edu/AWARE](http://researchpark.illinois.edu/AWARE)





## ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE: STUDENT STARTUP AWARD

*Formed by students in the last three years and demonstrates a commitment to continuing success through entrepreneurial talent, creativity and energy.*

### THERAPALZ

For the past two and a half years, Therapalz has aimed to enhance the quality of life for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia and their caregivers by providing smart therapeutic companion animals. A Therapal recreates the beneficial sensations of animal therapy by detecting tactile input from a patient, and responds by generating soothing vibrations, in addition to an underlying heartbeat. Therapalz are soft, durable and machine washable.

 [therapalz.com](https://therapalz.com)  [@Therapalz](https://twitter.com/Therapalz)

### AMBER AGRICULTURE

Amber Agriculture is an agtech company focused on introducing precision throughout postharvest processes beginning with grain management automation. The company was recently named the top startup of the 2017 Consumer Electronics Show (CES).

 [amber.ag](https://amber.ag)  [@grainsensing](https://twitter.com/grainsensing)

### CAST21

Founded by a group of undergraduate engineering students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Cast21 is using the latest in medical technology to create a waterproof, breathable cast for broken bones. Initially conceived during a senior design project, Cast21's cast concept was inspired by co-founder Jason Troutner's own experience in uncomfortable and irritating casts. Unlike traditional casts, Cast21's solution has an open lattice design (inspired by a Chinese finger trap) that allows the wearer to wash and scratch the skin below the molding. Cast21 participated in UIUC's iVenture Accelerator program and the Cozad New Venture competition, and has presented at the Hello Tomorrow Conference in Paris, as well as Chicago Techweek. Currently located at UIUC's EnterpriseWorks lab space, Cast21 recently raised over \$800K to support further product development.



 [cast21.com](https://cast21.com)  [@Cast21Official](https://twitter.com/Cast21Official)

## ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE: NEW VENTURE AWARD

*Formed in the last three years, and demonstrates a commitment to continuing success through entrepreneurial talent, creativity and energy.*

### RECONSTRUCT INC.

Reconstruct enables accurate, detailed, and visual progress tracking for proactive project controls on construction projects. Using daily and weekly progress photos and videos taken with smartphones, consumer-grade and time-lapse cameras as well as camera drones, their web-based platform continuously reconstructs Reality in 3D and over the timeline of a project. By visualizing Reality directly within BIM, actual construction progress and productivity are measured and risk for delays are analyzed. By mapping Reality to Plan and putting schedule tasks and project performance data in a visual context for the entire team, their platform provides transparency in project execution and helps project teams better plan, coordinate, and communicate to keep their projects on schedule and on budget.

 [reconstructinc.com](https://reconstructinc.com)  [@reconstructinc](https://twitter.com/reconstructinc)



### PETRONICS (SPRITE ROBOTICS)

Petronics is building the future of personal robotics and AI that interacts with real intelligence. Their first product, Mousr, is designed to play automated games of hide and seek with house cats.

 [petronics.io](https://petronics.io)  [@PetronicsInc](https://twitter.com/PetronicsInc)

### PHOTONICARE, INC.

PhotoniCare is a medical device company fundamentally changing the way physicians manage middle ear infections. With the ClearView device, physicians can now see through the eardrum to directly and harmlessly visualize the middle ear. Their technology enables physicians to determine quickly and easily whether a patient needs antibiotics or surgical intervention. They have third-generation prototypes in multi-site clinical studies, as well as several patents and publications on the technology. Over the last year, they have raised ~\$2.3M in non-dilutive federal grants, and are now preparing for FDA submission and the launch of their first product.



 [photonicareinc.com](https://photonicareinc.com)  [@PhotoniCare](https://twitter.com/PhotoniCare)

## ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE: PAUL MAGELLI ADVOCACY AWARD

*Actively engage, encourage, coach and mentor entrepreneurs in the community, and provide extensive support to help them achieve success.*

### BIGG SUCCESS

BIGG Success is an e-learning, coaching and consulting firm helping businesses, organizations, and professionals use social media to broadcast their message and grow their brand. George Krueger and Mary-Lynn Foster are the Co-Founders of BIGG Success. Mary-Lynn spent years as a high profile radio personality. She's an award winning audio producer and a professional voice over talent. George has been a serial entrepreneur since the age of 19 and teaches entrepreneurship at the University of Illinois. George & Mary-Lynn co-host the popular BIGG Success Show podcast and the nationally syndicated BIGG Success in a Minute radio feature.



 biggsuccess.com  @BiggSuccess

### COATTAILS, LLC

Coattails, LLC, is a family holding company/family office formed in the early 2000's for the purpose of holding the operating companies and alternative investments of certain descendants of Jacob and Agnes Beck. Today, Coattails holds 100% of the stock of its only operating company, Danville Metal Stamping Co., Inc., a 450-person manufacturer and fabricator of sheet metal components for gas turbine engines. In addition, Coattails holds or has held investment interests in traditional investment vehicles as well as various real estate projects, multiple start-ups, and several venture capital funds, many in Champaign County.

### JED TAYLOR

Jed Taylor is the Director of Operations of the Technology Entrepreneur Center at the University of Illinois and serves as an Entrepreneur in Residence at EnterpriseWorks, the University's startup incubator. In addition to his role at the TEC, Jed is the Chief Operating Officer of Runtime Verification, a startup out of the Computer Science Department. Jed has successfully taken several software products to market and has helped launch several companies in the Urbana-Champaign area that license university technology, including Pattern Insight, which was part of a successful 2012 acquisition with VMware.

 tec.illinois.edu  @TECenter

## INNOVATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPACT AWARD

*Has successfully commercialized innovations while demonstrating a commitment to positive, local, economic impact.*

### II-VI EPIWORKS

EpiWorks is a spin-off from the University of Illinois founded by Electrical and Computer Engineering alumni Quesnell Hartmann, David Ahmari, and the late Professor Gregory Stillman. The company is a leading producer of compound semiconductor materials that enable wireless chips used in smartphones and WiFi enabled devices as well as photonic chips used in 3D sensors, cloud computing and datacenters. EpiWorks was acquired by II-VI Incorporated, a global engineered materials company, in February 2016 and is expanding to meet rapidly rising demand for its products. The expansion at the Champaign-based facility includes quadrupling production capacity and adding 80 high-tech jobs.

 epiworks.com  @EpiWorksUSA

### SUPERVALU

The SUPERVALU Champaign Distribution Center began in 1900 when John M. Jones established the J.M. Jones Company in Dewey, Illinois. In 1963, the J.M. Jones Company merged with SUPERVALU, Inc. based in Minneapolis, Minnesota and relocated distribution operations to its current location on North Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. In 2005, SUPERVALU built an additional warehouse dedicated to the distribution of fresh produce, W. Newell, Inc. located on Apollo Drive in Champaign. These distribution centers serve over 400 independent grocery stores in a seven state radius in addition to fresh produce from W. Newell. The distribution centers supply fresh meat/seafood, dairy, deli, frozen food, candy, housewares, health and beauty products, dry canned, boxed or bagged grocery, and pet items.

 supervalu.com  @supervaluPR

### FLIGHTSTAR CORPORATION

Founded in 1978, Flightstar is an aviation service organization located at Willard Airport in Savoy, Illinois. With over 112,000 sq. ft. of hangar space, the company offers a range of services including a full-service fixed base operation, airline and general aviation maintenance, repair operations, avionics sales with installation and repair, and world-wide executive jet charter with full aircraft management services. Flightstar proudly serves as a Bombardier Authorized Service Facility and as a Honeywell Authorized Service Center. With over 120 team members, Flightstar prides itself on providing world-class aviation services delivered with a Midwestern work ethic and highly personalized customer service.

 flightstar.com  @FlightstarCMI

# ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE: MANAGEMENT AWARD

*Demonstrates expertise in assembling resources, creating an organization, and working to build and implement effective action plans.*

## SANJAY PATEL

### Personify



Sanjay Patel is a technology professor and entrepreneur. He’s been on the faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois since 1999. He’s been CEO of Personify since its founding in 2009. Sanjay has grown the company from 5 people to a global team of more than 30 technologists and innovators, with dozens of partnerships and relationships with companies like Intel, Logitech, Razer, SAP, and Lenovo.

 personify.com     @PersonifyInc

## BETH LADD

### Caterpillar Data Innovation Lab



Beth Ladd currently leads the Analytics Research & Development function at Caterpillar. Additionally, she is the site director for the Caterpillar Data Innovation Lab at University of Illinois Research Park. The lab is the first Caterpillar facility to develop analytic solutions to address business challenges at the periphery of current Caterpillar boundaries. Beth has over 15 years of experience in Information Science including: data warehousing, business intelligence and analytics strategy development, and operations and delivery. She has a successful track record of enabling results by creating healthy, diverse organizational cultures/teams and a successful track record of fostering relationships, creating partnerships and leading to produce results with data science and technology.

 caterpillar.com     @CaterpillarInc

## LAURA BLEILL

### chambanamoms.com & University of Illinois Research Park

Laura Weisskopf Bleill is the Mom-in-Chief of Chambanamoms.com and the Associate Director of the University of Illinois Research Park. (If it sounds crazy, that’s because it is.) At Research Park, she works with early-stage tech entrepreneurs and corporate partners. At Chambanamoms.com, she has built an independent media source for Champaign-Urbana. An avid volunteer, she sits on the boards of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation and Visit Champaign County. Bleill has two degrees from Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism, and spent the first half of her career as a sportswriter. She and her husband Tony are the proud parents of three girls.

 chambanamoms.com // researchpark.illinois.edu     @chambanamoms // @UIResearchPark


# INNOVATION: LONGEVITY AWARD

*Recognizes those enterprises whose sustained success is the direct result of continued innovation over many years.*

## APL ENGINEERED MATERIALS, INC.

In August 1944, Dr. Scott Anderson established the Anderson Physics Laboratory to perform sponsored experimental research in molecular physics. The lab functioned as a contract research facility for industrial customers. In the late 1950s, under a grant from the US Atomic Energy Commission, Anderson Physics Laboratory began to purify alkali halides. Around this time, lamp companies began to use APL’s purified salts. Their patented process of producing ultra-dry, high purity salts increased the efficiency and life of high pressure discharge lamps. The ability to manufacture precisely sized spherical material also led to the development of high speed dosing equipment in 1981. Their client list include companies such as GE, Osram, Philips as well as most other lamp manufacturers looking for quality, high purity materials.

APL has now expanded their product offering to include scintillation materials for radiation detection, used to grow crystals for national security, and medical applications. Moving into this area was an easy transition for APL because of the technology and expertise in manufacturing materials for their lamp customers. APL is known worldwide as a premier global supplier of high purity & ultra-dry metal halides, amalgams, metal and other advance materials for a wide range of markets including lighting, energy, scintillation and other high technology markets.

 aplmaterials.com



## LITANIA SPORTS GROUP

Litania Sports Group is the parent company of two market-leading brands in the sports facility market, Gill Athletics and Porter Athletic. Gill Athletics, founded in 1918, is the official Track Equipment Corporate Partner of the NFHS and the Official Equipment Supplier of the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Gill equipment is used all over the world including all levels of competition from colleges to high schools to masters’ competitions. Porter Athletic, founded in 1868, is recognized by coaches, architects, contractors and school administrators as the leader in the gymnasium equipment market. Porter equipment is featured in more award-winning athletic facility construction projects than any other brand.

 litaniasports.com // gillathletics.com // porterathletic.com     @GillAthletics

## SURFACE 51

SURFACE 51 is a tightly woven collective of innovative thinkers and doers. A marketing and design firm with expertise in brand development, video, web, print and social/emerging media, SURFACE 51 generates—and executes—big ideas. From its inception, the firm has collaborated with clients to help them tell their stories, elevate their innovations and disrupt their markets. S51’s mission sums it up: Be awesome. And get stuff done.

 surface51.com     @surface51





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## SPECIAL THANKS

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*This event would not be possible without the efforts of many who have taken time out of their busy schedules because they care about economic development in our community.*



## PROGRAM SPONSORED BY:



If you are interested in sponsoring future Innovation Celebration events, please contact:

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carly@champaigncountyedc.org  
217-359-6261