



Innovation &  
Entrepreneurship in  
Higher Education

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***Deshpande Symposium Awards Open!  
Nominate Your Institution, Program or Campus  
Leader Today!***

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**Dear Greetings!,**

Winter may be fighting spring in the northern part of the US, but this has not slowed down our efforts to host the best and biggest Deshpande Symposium on Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education. Registration is open, the Program will be released shortly and nominations for our Excellence Award program are flowing in. Some quick updates for you:



**REGISTER NOW** - Save \$100 by registering early. Registration is now open and early registration closes on May 4.

**NOMINATE NOW** - Nominate your program, organization or an individual for an Excellence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award. This recognition places your nominee in the echelons of innovation in higher education. Nominations are due by April 4 so there is still time!

**SPONSOR NOW** - Consider hosting an Exhibit or Sponsorship at the Symposium. All levels of sponsorship include some level of complimentary registration for the Symposium.

**ENTERTAINMENT** - We are kicking up the fun level a notch or two this year. Get ready to head off site for an exploration of Lowell's funky cultural and artistic side.

We have also confirmed participation of highly respected and innovative leaders in this broad field of innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education. Jerry Engel, founder of UC Berkeley's Lester Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Laurie Leshin, President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute are both confirmed speakers with one more on the way.

So what are you waiting for? Visit <http://www.deshpandesymposium.org> for more details and to register for the Symposium. If an institution plans to send five or more participants please reach out to discuss group opportunities.

Look forward to seeing you in Lowell in June!

**Steve Tello**  
**UMass Lowell**  
**Symposium Co-Chair**

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**Important Dates!**

**April 4, 2017** - Deadline for Deshpande Symposium Awards Nominations

May 4, 2017 - Early Bird Registration Ends

Please go to <http://www.deshpandesymposium.org> for more details!

## Nominations for 2017 Deshpande Symposium Awards now OPEN!

Nominations for the 2017 Deshpande Symposium Awards are now being accepted on the Symposium website. The awards recognize exemplary programs, institutions and individuals in several areas pertaining to entrepreneurship at higher educational institutions. The categories for the Awards include:

- ***Excellence in Curriculum Innovation in Entrepreneurship***
- ***Excellence in Student Engagement in Entrepreneurship***
- ***The Entrepreneurial University***
- ***Exemplary Practice in Technology Commercialization***
- ***Outstanding Contributions to Advancing I & E in Higher Education***

Applications are due by 11:59 pm EDT, April 4, 2017. You can view last year's awardees from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Ohio University, Arizona State University, Venturewell, The Burton D. Morgan Foundation and University of Massachusetts Lowell at <http://www.deshpandesymposium.org/awards/>.

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## Guest Commentary

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### Building Entrepreneurship into the Fabric of the University



*This issue of the newsletter includes the first of a two-part series by Julie Messing on building entrepreneurship across the Kent State University system. The first part, "Building Entrepreneurship into the Fabric of the University", describes the growing entrepreneurial programs at KSU. Next month we will continue with the second part on "Creating a Culture of Inclusive Innovation".*

As I approach 13 years in the innovation & entrepreneurship space in higher education, I continue to be impressed with the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of students and inspired by the quality and breadth of offerings from campuses across the country. Participating in the Deshpande Symposium each year has exposed me and my colleagues to a wide range of outstanding programs, educators and leaders. The spirit of sharing best practices and building relationships with peers at a variety of institutions has had a direct benefit on our programming at Kent State. During our first Deshpande Symposium, we were exposed to the University Innovation Fellows program and were immediately hooked. We have had 10 Fellows to date and they have been key to the growing innovation culture on our campus.

Kent State students have taken the path of entrepreneurs for decades - well before entrepreneurship courses or co-curricular activities were offered. This became apparent as I met several students that formed entrepreneurship clubs before any other offerings were in place. The development and growth of entrepreneurship support on our campus began in the College of Business in 2006. This program was the seed that brought awareness and appreciation for an entrepreneurial mindset.

In 2012 we embarked on a new path, [Blackstone LaunchPad](#), where we expanded the entrepreneurial culture to serve students from every Kent State college and campus by helping them transform innovative ideas into successful ventures as well as giving students the opportunity to connect to the plethora of resources across our region. In 2016 the program evolved into [LaunchNET](#), part of the [NEOLaunchNET](#) network powered by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

At Kent State we are experiencing an energizing culture shift where collaborative innovation is being woven into the fabric of the university, and we are pleased to be leading the way. We are proud of our impact yet remain humbled by the powerful lessons that we are learning from our peers across the country as we continue our journey as an innovation and entrepreneurial hub for the university.

**Julie Messing**  
**Executive Director - Entrepreneurship Initiatives**  
**LaunchNET**  
**Kent State University**

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## Community Announcements

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### The Michelson 20 MM Foundation and NACCE Launch Intellectual Property (IP) Education Pilot in 10 Community Colleges



In the late fall of 2016 as part of National Entrepreneurship Month, the White House recognized NACCE for its leadership and participation in national initiatives that promote innovation and entrepreneurship and was encouraged to announce a new initiative for 2017 that advanced the organization's work in the area.

With the aim of accelerating effective collaboration and innovation between community colleges and universities, NACCE chose to highlight a new intellectual property (IP) education pilot funded by the Michelson 20MM Foundation that is in the early stages of launching. Intellectual Property comprises 45 percent of the country's total GDP today and represents 80 percent of the market value of all publicly traded companies in the United States. The goal of the pilot is to identify early IP champions with a lead college responsible for developing a master syllabus and nine supporting colleges adopting and/or adapting these materials for their respective courses. The IP curriculum will cover the essential of patents, trademarks, copyright and trade secrets. For more details on this innovative program, [Click here](#).

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## Thank you!

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