

UT Matters



Innovative ideas and inventions from

UT are rapidly hitting the

marketplace. As a result, new

industries are developing.

For northwest Ohio that means

increased revenue and higher

paying job opportunities.

UTMatters.com

The University of Toledo startup company, The Turning Point, created a device to improve trunk flexibility and core conditioning called "The Core Trainer." Researchers are in the final steps to ensure the invention is performing properly before it goes to the marketplace.

JOBS EMERGE FROM UT

Innovations offer economic hope

In the mid-1990s, Google was just an idea floating around a Stanford University dorm room. Today, Google accounts for nearly half of all Web searches. Although we aren't always aware of them, great innovations from universities are integral to improving our quality of life and stimulating economic growth.

Locally, The University of Toledo is steadily becoming a well-recognized leader in technology transfer, which is the process of developing a product or service from university research. Although the office was opened in 1987, technology transfer began in earnest at UT in 2002, and since then, it's contributed to more than 210 local jobs and more than \$15 million in annual payroll.

"Currently, we have about 125 patents issued, nearly 490 patents being reviewed in the Patent and Trademark Office, and 16 startup companies," says Dan Kory, associate vice president for technology transfer at UT.

The following process outlines the way discoveries at UT move toward the marketplace.

Research Stage

When a UT researcher proposes an idea and receives funding, the research phase begins. At this stage, UT's technology transfer specialists begin determining the invention's value in the marketplace, ensuring patent protection, identifying interested markets, and developing a target market campaign to gauge company interest.

Product Development Stage

Once a product generates interest and UT technology transfer specialists identify potential licensees, negotiations begin. The product will either be licensed to an outside company or to the inventor, whom UT will

assist to create his or her own startup company. Once the product is licensed, design and engineering begin. If the product is licensed to the inventor, UT assists with market research and analysis to plan how the startup company will launch into the marketplace.

Testing Stage

The testing stage is the final step before it goes to the marketplace. Testing is done to ensure the product is executing the functions properly.

Product Stage

As a commercialized product in this stage, the licensed company continues advancing the technology, makes additional investments, and manufactures the product.



Maria Szkudlarek, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases Graduate Program Track student at UT, studies how a new obesity drug's compounds disrupt the formation of fat cells.

"We have an obligation to get beneficial technologies into the marketplace so they can be used to improve people's lives," says Stephen Snider, director of technology, licensing and contracts at UT.

Through technology transfer, UT faculty, staff and students can affect economic growth. UT's program has increased jobs and established new industries, businesses and products.

What are some of the discoveries in the technology transfer process at UT? Find out at UTMatters.com.

UT Fact: Since 2002, technology transfer at UT has contributed to more than 210 local jobs and more than \$15 million in annual payroll.

Source: UToledo.edu

ENGINEERING A STRONGER TOLEDO

The University of Toledo professors and graduate students aren't the only ones solving engineering problems. Undergraduates in the Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (M.I.M.E.) Senior Design Clinic apply what they learn in the classroom to solve real community engineering challenges.

"While collaborating with an internal team, students in the program work with local industries to find technological solutions to help the community – all while networking with potential employers," says Nagi Naganathan, PhD, dean of the College of Engineering at UT. "Senior Design Clinic students may also learn how to form a business from their own ideas or from innovations presented by community members."

And in some cases, these innovations have become patented and successful businesses.

For example, M.I.M.E. department professors and students began working with UT alumnus and inventor Ron Roberts who had an

idea to help decrease the growing number of football concussions. The recently patented invention incorporates a protective mechanism into the skullcaps players commonly wear under their helmets.

"While Ron is trying to develop a business plan, our students are finding out how to best design the skull cap and what material would provide the most effective protection," says Ron Fournier, PhD, professor of bioengineering at UT.

It's a win-win — students get real-world experience to add to their resumes, and local companies can take advantage of the undergraduates' know-how.

You can see these projects on display during the biannual Senior Design Expo on Friday, April 30, which will feature more than 50 designs of graduating engineering students.

Want to know how your business can benefit from the Senior Design Clinic? Call (877) 451-2299 to get more information.



UT graduates Charmain Cassabon, Cory Chapman and Kyle Everman (left to right), displayed their Treat Dispenser for Assistance Dogs project at the Senior Design Expo in fall 2009.

To find out how UT is improving the human condition in Toledo, call (877) 451-2299 or visit

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