

# Oklahoma Innovations - OCAST's Official Newsletter

## June 2015

---

### **OCAST PROVIDES FUNDING FOR 46 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

OCAST recently awarded \$6,178,695 million for 41 research and development projects ranging from the development of nano-scaled lithium-ion batteries to innovative mineral recovery techniques to next generation antibiotics. "The quality of the proposals, and the innovation behind them, was truly outstanding this year," stated Dan Luton, director of programs for OCAST.

In addition to awarding funding for research and development projects, OCAST also awarded five internships through the Intern Partnerships program. According to Tessa North, programs manager at OCAST, "The Intern Partnerships program is a great way for industry and academia to come together and develop solutions to real problems, while at the same time exposing university students to high-tech careers. The bottom line is that the program provides students with valuable experience, universities with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of current industry needs and industry an avenue to form a relationship with the state's R&D resources."

Across all OCAST programs, the research and development being conducted will attract further public and private investment, create new technologies, new patents and new jobs and will ultimately benefit the citizens of Oklahoma. "The awards made today reflect the continued commitment of Oklahoma to the diversification and expansion of our economy," according to C. Michael Carolina, executive director of OCAST. "In order for states to compete in the knowledge-based economy, it is imperative to make early stage investments in the development of new technologies and innovations."

---

### **OCAST APPROPRIATION BUDGET SET AT \$15.9 MILLION**

Lawmakers have set OCAST's appropriation for FY2016 at 5.12 percent or \$861,789 lower than FY2015. OCAST is included in a list of 55 other agencies to receive reductions of up to 7.25 percent. State lawmakers were greatly challenged to craft a budget with \$611 million shortfall from the previous year. OCAST's budget for FY2016 is \$15.9 million.

Lawmakers did not take any additional money from the OCAST revolving fund which is good news for the state's science and technology agency. This means dollars dedicated to the seed capital fund approved by voters will be held harmless. Seed capital money is used to assist high-tech startups which historically are generators of high paying jobs in Oklahoma.

This year OCAST had success in meeting with and educating new legislative members on the importance of innovation on our state's economy. History has shown that public-private collaboration results in a diversified economy that includes advanced technology.

---

## **NSU, BROKEN ARROW HOST TECH SHOWCASE AUGUST 26**

The 2015 Oklahoma Technology Showcase is scheduled for August 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Northeastern State University (NSU) in Broken Arrow.

Six innovative high-tech companies will be featured including Compression Solutions, Sarvam Solutions, Wegolook, Monscierge, Advantage Controls and DII. Each will give a 10 minute high energy talk highlighting their products or service as well as life lessons learned as they pursued their ambitions.

Breakfast, lunch and a dessert reception will provide several opportunities to network with inventors, manufacturers, researchers and leaders in the innovation economy.

Early-bird registration is available until August 12 for \$35. To register go to [nsuok.edu/OKTS2015](http://nsuok.edu/OKTS2015). For information regarding sponsorships and vendor booth space, contact Laura Sohl-Smith at [Laura.Sohl-Smith@ocast.ok.gov](mailto:Laura.Sohl-Smith@ocast.ok.gov) or call 405-319-8408. The event will be held NSU Broken Arrow, located at 3100 E. New Orleans, Broken Arrow, OK 74014.

For more information and current happenings follow the Oklahoma Technology Showcase on twitter @techoklahoma.

---

## **OCAST SPONSORS ELEVATE YOUTH CAMP HELD IN PRYOR**

Nearly 200 youth ages 16 to 21 from seven counties met to learn more about careers in manufacturing and networking opportunities during the Elevate Youth Summit held at Pryor High School. This year's summit focused on manufacturing and the career options available in that industry.

A goal of the Elevate Youth Summit was to get manufacturing, and the wide variety of careers available in the industry, on students' minds. The summit showcased how manufacturing touched many areas including automotive, engineering, aerospace, prosthetics, space exploration and the music industry.

More than 25 vendors including universities, employers, workforce agencies and military recruiters displayed exhibitions during the vendor fair.

Participants attended two of the eight manufacturing career panels offered during the day, including Information Technology and Networking Engineering, Production, Professional and Administrative, Metal Works and Machining, Environmental Health and Safety and Maintenance.

The event was a chance for the participants to learn something new and possibly find their future career.

---

## **INAGURAL OCAST NOTEBOOK AWARD IS PRESENTED DURING TECH TREK CAMP**

Tech Trek is a one-week STEM camp for eighth grade girls that got its start 15 years ago through an American Association of University of Women (AAUW) Community Action Grant to open a science camp for girls on the Stanford University campus. The camp has now been expanded to four states, including Oklahoma.

Campers took part in activities like building and programming robots, extracting their own DNA, learning how computer simulations are used to predict weather patterns and much more. Tech Trek has been shown to increase girls' self-confidence and interest in an excitement about STEM fields.

OCAST was proud to sponsor this transformative camp and present the first ever OCAST Notebook Award to Lailaa Torres of Hollis Oklahoma.

Tech Trek at SWOSU is a partnership between Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

---

## OCAST CALENDAR

OCAST clients will soon receive an impact survey asking for input on funded projects. The survey is used to develop the impact report which is distributed annually to agency stakeholders. It's also an opportunity to give any feedback that might be helpful to OCAST processes and procedures.

FY2016 Intern Partnerships solicitations will open in the coming weeks. [Click this link](#) if you would like to be notified when the application period is open.

---

## OKLAHOMA INNOVATIONS RADIO SHOW

Genetics touches virtually every medical condition and the need for genetics knowledge is expanding. At the [Clinical Genetics Laboratories](#) at Children's Hospital, hundreds of Oklahoma children are receiving sophisticated treatments and prevention measures to ensure a better health outcome.

[Listen to the show.](#)

OU Children's Physicians [Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine](#) serves as a state-wide referral center for premature and sick newborns. The center has earned a Level IV designation, the highest rating for a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The regional perinatal center includes an infant transport service, perinatal consultation and education services and a NICU follow-up clinic for high-risk infants who have received intensive care.

[Listen to the show.](#)

The [BoarBuster](#) is a research-based, cutting-edge trapping system developed as a solution for managing the nation's exploding feral hog population. A mobile-controlled deploying function with live streaming video, allows users to deploy the trap when an entire sounder is beneath.

[Listen to the show.](#)

To hear more interviews on *Oklahoma Innovations* visit the [OCAST website](#) or listen weekly on:

Altus - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KOCU 90.1 FM  
Ardmore - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KLCU 90.3 FM  
Chickasha - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KCCU 100.1 FM  
Clinton - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KYCU 89.1 FM  
Lawton/Fort Sill - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KCCU 89.3 & 102.9 FM  
Oklahoma City - Sunday at 5 p.m. - KTOK AM 1000  
Tulsa - Sunday at 8 a.m. - KRMG AM 740/FM 102.3  
Wichita Falls, TX - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KMFCU 88.7 FM