**OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS (OTIIR)**

**ANNUAL REPORT FY 2021-2022**

The Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations (OTIIR) connects University of California at Merced (UCM) faculty, students, and alumni with business partners to commercialize their innovations, develop new research, start new ventures, and strengthen and diversify the economy.

**Goals**

* Expand outreach activities by hosting fire-side chats, workshops on IP and Entrepreneurism, virtual and in-person Lunch & Learn sessions, pitch deck development, face to face engagements with inventors to learn about innovation projects and ideas that can potentially be translated to market.
* Complete the discovery phase for the IN-PART software solutions that uses a matching algorithm to connect technologies with businesses to facilitate collaborative research and commercialization.
* Work with UC Merced’s leadership to identify additional funding to scale staffing of I &E subject matter experts to reach a state of readiness.
* Develop relationships with industry partners who are interested in investing in technologies and ideas developed by UC Merced inventors.

A successful Innovation and Entrepreneurship Office requires a strong infrastructure that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology commercialization activities.  This past year, we built upon the existing structure and saw marked improvement in almost all categories at the end of FY 2021-2022.

**Metrics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Non-disclosure Agreements** | |
| School of Engineering | 10 |
| School of Natural Sciences | 5 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **US Patent Apps** | |
| School of Engineering | 19 |
| School of Natural Sciences | 18 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Invention Disclosures** | |
| School of Engineering | 4 |
| School of Natural Sciences | 5 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Outgoing Material Transfer Agreements** | |
| School of Engineering | 0 |
| School of Natural Sciences | 2 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Technology Licenses/Letter of Intent** | |
| School of Engineering | 2 |
| School of Natural Sciences | 1 |

**Strategies**

Facilitated engagement events with approximately 60 faculty members, 40 graduate students, and 400 undergraduate students, which positively impacted the number of invention disclosures received each month as compared to FY 2020-2021. We anticipate this steady growth will continue into the next fiscal cycle.

Partnered with Nixon Peabody to facilitate a webinar that educated faculty and students about corporate formation.

Facilitated multiple “Lunch & Learn” webinars with various law firms and venture capitalists to educate faculty and students about intellectual property, licensing, funding opportunities, start-up formation and commercialization of intellectual property. Speaker seminars with local law firms, an annual IP symposium and in-person fire-side chats will be added to the events agenda for FY 2022-2023

OTIIR has and will continue to seek permanent funding to recruit and retain subject matter experts to double our capacity by FY 2023 to support current and anticipated surge in research activity due to the push to reach R1 Carnegie designation by 2030.

OTIIR has executed a three-year subscription to IN-PART software to assist with marketing and licensing of UCM technology. Additional funds are needed to invest in other technology and software solutions to docket, track, and manage IP and agreements.

OTIIR attempts to establish connections with industry by participating in various programs that encourage faculty and students to engage with industry partners. This is challenging due to the campus’ location and limited proximity to industry hubs in underserved regions like the CA Centrally Valley.

**Examples of Industry Outreach Events:**

* Hosted three one-day training sessions funded by the NSF I-Corps grant to educate students about intellectual property, business communication, networking, marketing of IP, teamwork, and other professional and leadership skills.
* Scheduled monthly meetings with city and county officials to discuss opportunities for collaboration with UC Merced inventors and city/county projects.
* Blackstone Launch-Pad hosted monthly Innovation + Design Hub Speaker Series and Workshops, and participated in Ideas Competitions.
* UC Merced was represented by eight student entrepreneurs at the annual Blackstone Conference.

In the absence of incubator facilities on campus, OTIIR seeks out opportunities to partner with other incubators such as IMPEL at LBL, Bakar Labs at UC Berkeley and UC Irvine Beall Applied Innovation.