



Clustering for 21st Century Prosperity at the National Academies

Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke addressed innovation through regional cluster formation Thursday at “Clustering for 21st Century Prosperity”, a meeting at the National Academy of Sciences, hosted by the National Research Council. Innovation leaders from around the nation participated in the event.

“How well America moves ideas out of the research lab and into the marketplace will determine whether we remain the most competitive and vibrant economy in the world,” said Secretary Locke.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez and Senior Advisor to the White House National Economic Council Ginger Lew also addressed the group.

“With millions of Americans out of work, and our competitors aggressively chasing the same high-growth industries that we are, the United States cannot afford to merely fund research and say a prayer that some entrepreneur will commercialize it down the road, “ said Locke. “In an era of limited resources, we've got to be targeted and strategic in our investments,” he added.

Association of University Research Parks (AURP) President Brian Darmody presented *The Power of Place 2.0: The Power of Innovation – 10 Steps for Creating Jobs, Improving Technology Commercialization, and Building Communities of Innovation* at the National Academies of Sciences meeting.

"Job creation in the United States will largely depend on start-up companies and entrepreneurs who populate university research parks, laboratories and incubators across the nation," said Darmody. "These are the main centers of innovation in this country. Much more of their work would be commercially viable if some of the roadblocks could be eliminated. Other countries simplify commercialization and lure away U.S. corporate research. We need to find ways to keep this work in the United States."

AURP released *The Power of Place 2.0: The Power of Innovation – 10 Steps for Creating Jobs, Improving Technology Commercialization, and Building Communities of Innovation* earlier in the week at a breakfast on Capitol Hill with U.S. Representative Martin Heinrich and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in attendance.

Read *The Power of Place 2.0 – The Power of Innovation* at www.aurp.net.

About AURP: The Association of University Research Parks is a professional association of university related research and science parks. AURP's mission is to foster innovation, commercialization and economic growth through university, industry and government partnerships. For more information, visit AURP's Web site at www.aurp.net or contact Chelsea Simpson at chelseasimpson@aurp.net.