



For Immediate Release

AURP Elects New 2021 Board Members and Executive Officers

Tucson, AZ, Dec. 17, 2020 – The Association of University Research Parks (AURP), a global non-profit membership organization serving the institutional research park and innovation district community, announces the installation of its 2021 board members and executive officers during the AURP Annual Business Meeting State of the Association Address held virtually on December 15, 2020.

AURP's 2021 Executive Committee comprises:

PRESIDENT – Leah Burton, Director of Centennial Campus Partnership Office at NC State University
VICE PRESIDENT – Erin Koshut, Executive Director of Cummings Research Park
TREASURER – Scott Levitan, President and CEO of The Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina
SECRETARY – Chris Carlson, Senior Vice President of The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
AT-LARGE OFFICER – Jeff Johnson, Director of Tech Center Research Park, Virginia Tech
AT-LARGE OFFICER – Mark Romney, Chief Strategy Officer of Aggie Square, University of California
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Daniel Duncan, Executive Director of Nebraska Innovation Campus

"Looking ahead, I am excited for Leah Burton to take over as AURP President, to witness the new board's leadership as we continue to move forward," stated Dan Duncan, AURP Immediate Past President and Executive Director, Nebraska Innovation Campus, as he welcomed in the 2021 Board of Directors and Officers, while thanking them for their leadership and support during his presidency in 2019-2020. Duncan reviewed the many challenges he overcame during this tenure as president, such as: filling the vacant CEO leadership position, moving the AURP Tucson headquarters to Tech Parks Arizona and opening AURP office at WeWork in College Park, MD (AURP's DC-area office), guiding AURP connectivity at such programs as AURP's hugely successful International Conference in Atlanta and Spring Training before the Covid-19 pandemic forced the end of travels thus pivoting to virtual programming and the 2020 International Conference. Additionally, Duncan recognized many board members for their thoughtful and rewarding leadership, and the AURP Team for their support and grit especially in the year's tumultuous times.

AURP President 2021-2022 Leah Burton, Director of Centennial Campus Partnership Office, NC State University, acknowledged during the recent AURP Annual Business Meeting, "It is an honor to serve alongside these professionals who represent the finest our industry has to offer and even more proud to call each of them a friend." During her remarks as incoming AURP President, Leah Burton outlined her 2021 priorities including: 1) Expanded and diversified membership with increased retention and engagement strategies; 2) continued financial stability of the Association; and 3) additional programming focused on diversity, equity and inclusion to strengthen the existing building blocks within our research and innovation communities.

Newly elected members of the AURP Board include:

- Will Germain, Senior Investment Officer, Ventas, Inc.
- Jeff Johnson, Director, Tech Center Research Park, Virginia Tech
- Allison Madden, MBA, Director of Operations, University of South Florida Research Park
- Larry Shaw, CEO, Knowledge Park, Inc. & Ignite Fredericton
- Jeff Smith, Director, University Corporate Research Park – Michigan State University

A full roster of the AURP Board of Directors 2021 is [available online](#).



**ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
PARKS**

Creating Communities of Innovation

"I am proud to join in working with the new board and new officers in the year ahead on behalf of our membership and larger community of research parks and communities of innovation worldwide," said Brian Darmody, AURP CEO. With the expected lessening of the pandemic in 2021 and return to some in person events, I look forward to working with the board to continue driving AURP's mission to support and develop university research parks and innovation districts across the US and worldwide – our community of innovation," noted Darmody.

About AURP:

AURP, a non-profit international organization with offices in Tucson, AZ at the University of Arizona Science & Technology Park (Tech Parks AZ) and in the Washington, DC area at the University of Maryland Discovery District, focuses on creating communities of innovation and education for research parks both operating and planned, plus innovation districts, incubators, accelerators and the businesses that support the research park industry. AURP and its global membership promote research, institute-industry relations and innovation districts to foster innovation and to facilitate the transfer of technology from such institutions to the private sector. Learn more: www.AURP.net

Media Contact:

Ken Berlack

AURP

816-718-3466

ken.berlack@earlycharm.com

[@AURP](#)