AURP 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
DALLAS, TX ★ SEPT 29 – OCT 1

Hosted by PEGASUS PARK

2026 AURP Annual Conference

FOUNDATIONS TO FRONTIERS:
Research Parks and Innovation Districts for America's Next 250 Years

Monday, September 28 – Thursday, October 1
Preliminary agenda - subject to change

Monday, September 28

TEXAS SCIENCE PARK DAY — *SPECIAL EVENT at PEGASUS PARK*
Hosted by Texas Foundation of Innovative Communities and Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology — *Separate registration required.*

8:00 – 4:45 Meetings
5:00 - 6:00 Reception *Sponsored by Gensler and GovExperts*

12:00 – 4:00 **AURP INFORMATION / REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**
Funny Library on 1st Floor, Virgin Hotels

1:30 – 4:30 **AURP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
Founders Room, 6th Floor, Virgin Hotels

6:00 **AURP BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPONSOR APPRECIATION DINNER**
(by invitation only)
Raise a glass to toast our 2026 International Conference Sponsors during this welcomed in-person tradition. The AURP Board of Directors, Past Presidents, 2026 Conference Planning Committee and invited Sustaining Member representatives, gather to honor our Annual and Conference Sponsors.

Tuesday, September 29

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT VIRGIN HOTELS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – DALLAS — *OPTIONAL TOUR*
Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences (BMES) Building — *Advance sign-ups required. Space is limited. Transportation not provided – meet in hotel lobby.*

9:00 - 10:30 SOLD OUT *11:30 – 1:00* SOLD OUT *2:00 – 3:30* SOLD OUT

AURP INFORMATION / REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

7:30 – 3:00
Funny Library on 1st Floor, Virgin Hotels

4:30 – 5:30
The Manor on 4th Floor, Virgin Hotels

8:00 – 4:00 **COMMUNITIES OF INNOVATION 101** — *Sponsored by* Jacobs
(Additional fee applies)
Founders Room, 6th Floor, Virgin Hotels
Continental Breakfast opens at 7:30
Discover the building blocks behind thriving ecosystems at AURP's Communities of Innovation 101. Designed for emerging professionals and those seeking a deeper understanding of research parks and innovation districts, this immersive session explores the essential elements of building and managing successful Communities of Innovation.
View full schedule here.

COI 101 Chair: Kate Engel, Officer At-Large, AURP; Executive Director, Nebraska Innovation Campus

12:00 - 1:00 **NETWORKING LUNCH & NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS

Collaborative Real Estate · Research Triangle Park · STILETTO · The University of Arizona Tech Parks Arizona

Commons Club, 1st Floor, Virgin Hotels
This special invitation-only luncheon includes AURP Board of Directors as we welcome attendees of the COI 101, Leadership Roundtable, Annual Sponsors, and AURP's Newest Members (since 2025).

Allison Madden, MBA, President, AURP; COO and Corporate Secretary, University of South Florida Research Park
Jeff Smith, MBA**,** Vice President, AURP; Director, Research Parks, Michigan State University Research Fdn

1:00 – 4:00 **LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE:**
MILESTONE MOMENTS: WHAT HISTORY REVEALS ABOUT THE NEXT ERA OF INNOVATION LEADERSHIP
(Additional fee applies)
The Lounge, 6th Floor, Virgin Hotels
Throughout history, periods of extraordinary innovation have emerged at pivotal moments—when technological breakthroughs, talent, capital, policy, and institutions converged to reshape economies and regions. Drawing on historical patterns and milestone policy moments that transformed the innovation economy, Cullum Clark will explore how previous eras of innovation emerged, and what they reveal about today's rapidly changing landscape.

Following the historical context, participants will engage in a facilitated roundtable to discuss where the next opportunities may lie, and the implications for their own organizations and communities. Together, the group will explore the leadership decisions, partnerships, and strategic investments needed to ensure their innovation ecosystems remain globally competitive through the next chapter of the innovation economy.

Cullum Clark, Director, Economic Growth, George W. Bush Institute, SMU Economic Growth Initiative

4:00 – 4:30 **VIP RECEPTION**
(*by invitation only*)
The Manor, 4th Floor, Virgin Hotels

Sponsored by

4:30 – 5:30 **WELCOME RECEPTION & GUEST SPEAKER**
(All registrants invited to attend)
The Manor, 4th Floor, Virgin Hotels
Grab a drink and mingle with other attendees before connecting with Dr. Fadul, special guest speaker from ARPA-H.

Rafid Fadul, MD, MBA, Deputy Director, Chief Medical Officer, ARPA-H

6:30 **SMALL GROUP DINNERS**
Guests to sign-up online. All attendees welcome.

Wednesday, September 30

All meetings held at Pegasus Park

7:00 – 8:15 **TRANSPORTATION FROM HOTEL TO PEGASUS**
SEE AURP MEETING APP FOR SCHEDULE

Sponsored by

7:00 **REGISTRATION CHECK-IN**
Pegasus Park

7:30 – 8:30 **MAIN STAGE BREAKFAST WITH NSF**
12th Floor, Pegasus Park

Sponsored by

Start your morning off as we gain an inside look at how the NSF Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate is helping move breakthrough research from the lab to the marketplace. Come enjoy breakfast and discover how your organization can tap into these programs to strengthen innovation and accelerate impact.

Dr. Erwin Gianchandani, Assistant Director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, U.S. National Science Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS

8:45 – 9:45 **MAIN STAGE MORNING SESSIONS**
12th Floor, Pegasus Park

8:45 **WELCOMING REMARKS**
David Snow, PhD, CLP, Patent Agent; Executive Director, Pegasus Park
Eric Moore, Chief Development Officer, BioNTX
Linda McMahon, CEO, Dallas Economic Development Corporation

9:00 **PEGASUS PARK VISION**
Discover the vision, partnerships and bold thinking behind Pegasus Park and its emergence as a dynamic hub for science, technology and entrepreneurship. Together these leaders who helped shape its transformation, will explore how strategic investment, adaptive reuse, placemaking and cross-sector collaboration can create a thriving community of innovation—and offer lessons for research parks and innovation districts everywhere.

David Snow, PhD, CLP, Patent Agent; Executive Director, Pegasus Park
Nicole Small, CEO, Lyda Hill Holdings
Linda McMahon, CEO, Dallas Economic Development Corporation
Steve Davis, President, J. Small Investments
Stephen Coulston, AIA, Vice President, Cities & Places, Jacobs (Moderator)

9:30 **BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE**
Explore how brain health shapes the way we think, create, connect and innovate. Drawing on research from Dallas' Brain Health Institute, this keynote will reveal how intentional habits can strengthen brain performance, spark creativity and help us approach challenges with greater purpose—setting the stage for a day of discovery at Pegasus Park.

Stephen White, JD, COO, Center for Brain Health, University of Texas, Dallas

9:45 – 10:15 **NETWORKING BREAK**

Sponsored by

10:15 – 11:30 **MAIN STAGE MORNING SESSIONS** *(continued)*
12th Floor, Pegasus Park

10:15 **REIMAGINING THE MODERN RESEARCH PARK**
Convening leaders from renown innovation communities, these pioneers will explore how three distinctly different innovation ecosystems are adapting to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving landscape. From unique perspectives on shifting funding priorities, how legacy institutions are retooling for the future, to the partnerships that are helping to drive their transformation, prepare to leave with practical strategies to strengthen and future-proof your own community of innovation.

Beth O'Neill Maloney, Executive Director, Kendall Square Association
Chris Leary, AIA LEED AP Principal, S+T Practice Leader, HOK
Kevin Johnson, AIA, LEED AP, Principal, Lead Architectural Designer, Ayers Saint Gross
Dennis Miller, Senior Vice President and Market Executive, Wexford Science & Technologies
Amber Wendland, AIA, AICP, Associate Principal, Ayers Saint Gross
Bennett Thompson, Vice President, Real Estate, Atrium Health
Scott Levitan, President & CEO, The Research Triangle Park of NC (Moderator)

11:00 **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES**
What does the research tell us about the true economic value of innovation districts? Drawing on recent studies, data and thought leadership, Cullum Clark will examine how these communities contribute to regional growth, talent attraction, entrepreneurship and competitiveness—and what the evidence reveals about the strategies and investments that generate lasting economic impact.

Cullum Clark, Director, Economic Growth, George W. Bush Institute, SMU Economic Growth Initiative

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS

11:30 – 1:45 **AURP CELEBRATES: AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION**

Lunch Sponsored by McCOWNGORDON CONSTRUCTION

Celebrate the visionaries shaping the future of innovation! Join AURP as we honor the outstanding leaders, organizations, and communities recognized with our 2026 Awards of Excellence.

Awards Emcee: Harry Brislin, MBA, Secretary, AURP; Executive Director, Real Estate Services & Asset Management, University of South Alabama Technology & Research Park

Thank you to Our Awards of Excellence Sponsors WEXFORD SCIENCE+TECHNOLOGY Jacobs The University Financing Foundation, Inc. WT Whiting-Turner

2:00 – 2:45 **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

FROM KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY TO BRAIN ECONOMY: A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR RESEARCH PARK SUCCESS

Room 104C, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Reframe research parks from real estate-driven knowledge economies to brain economies centered on human and cognitive capital through case studies showing how brain health is embedded through design, culture, technology, and governance across campuses and districts. Integrating architecture, policy, neuroscience, and data, panelists offer a practical framework for measurable, scalable investments that enhance talent attraction, institutional performance, and resilient innovation ecosystems long-term value creation.

Zack Lofton, AICP, CNU A, Senior Urban Planner, HKS
Stephen White, JD, BS, COO, Center for Brain Health, University of Texas, Dallas
Mason Ailstock, Past President, AURP; President, Higher Education Services, Centurion Foundation
Julie Hiromoto, WELL AP, LEED AP, Partner, Director of Integration, HKS (Moderator)

FINANCING INNOVATION: CONNECTING CAPITAL, COMMERCIALIZATION, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Room 101, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Explore how innovative funding models are accelerating university research commercialization by connecting capital, industry, and community partners through shared strategies that align federal funding, private investment, accelerator programs, and public-private partnerships to move promising technologies from the lab to marketplace. Through practical examples attendees will learn how coordinated capital strategies can de-risk innovation, attract follow-on investment, and drive lasting regional economic impact.

Connor Sitton, Vice President, Capital Strategy, NobleReach Foundation
Tracy Poole, JD, Founding and Managing Partner, FortySix Capital
Chris Wright, PhD, Assistant Vice President of Innovation, University of Tulsa
Linda Hall, Executive Vice President, CFO, NCInnovation
Jacob Johnson, Founder, innovosource (Moderator)

QUANTUM COMPUTING: GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKFORCE NEEDS

Room 104A, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Quantum technologies are moving rapidly from research to real-world application—creating new opportunities for regions, institutions and industry. Explore the emerging quantum economy, the talent and workforce needed to fuel its growth, and how universities, community colleges, industry and communities can work together to build the infrastructure and skills needed to compete in this fast-evolving sector.

Mayor Amir Omar, City of Richardson Texas
Brian Rashap, Quantum and Internet of Things Educator, Central New Mexico Community College
Brenden Mesch, Provost, Collin College Technical Campus
Dr. Sukumaran Nair, Vice Provost for Research and CIO, Southern Methodist University
Victor Fishman, Executive Director, Texas Research Alliance (Moderator)

2:45 – 3:00 TRANSITION BREAK

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3:00 – 3:45 **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

UT DALLAS'S VISION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, RESEARCH, AND EXTERNAL IMPACT

Room 104A, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Under the leadership of new president Dr. Prabhas Moghe, UT Dallas is launching a bold strategic plan centered on three core pillars: Student Success; Academic and Research Convergence; and External Impact. Founded by Texas Instruments' leaders to develop a skilled local engineering workforce, UT Dallas has a long tradition of aligning education with industry needs.

Dr. Joseph Pancrazio, Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Texas, Dallas
Dr. Marc Christensen, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Texas, Dallas
Keith Sanders, IP and Business Development Director, Texas Instruments
Dr. Brian Ten Eyck, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and COS, University of Texas, Dallas (Moderator)

FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Room 104C, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Learn how universities and industry are co-investing in research infrastructure through public-private partnerships and innovative financing models. Speakers will highlight financing fundamentals, risk-sharing strategies and best practices for aligning facilities with long-term research, workforce and economic development needs.

Kevin Byrne, MBA, Past President, AURP; President and CEO, The University Financing Foundation
David Tyndall, Founder and CEO, Collaborative Real Estate

FROM CORPORATE RELATIONS TO REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS: REIMAGINING UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Room 101, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Discover how universities are strengthening corporate partnerships and leveraging research parks and innovation districts to drive regional growth. Drawing on NACRO's *Corporate Relations Reimagined* and insights from APLU IEP Award-winning institutions, speakers will share practical approaches to activating university assets, advancing commercialization and talent, and measuring economic impact.

Tammy Eickhoff, Lead Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations, Mayo Clinic; Co-President, Network of Academic Corporate Relations Officers
Lisa Tran, Senior Assistant Dean, Executive Education & Strategic Partnerships, Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University
Chris Rhodes, Executive Director, University of Georgia Innovation District
Marc Gibson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development, University of Tennessee
Alvaro J. Muñiz, Director for Economic Engagement, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (Moderator)

3:45 – 4:15 **NETWORKING BREAK**

Sponsored by K-STATE OLATHE STILETTO

4:15 - 5:00 **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

EXPLORING HIGH-IMPACT UNIVERSITY INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM INVESTMENTS WITH DIGITAL TWIN MODELING

Room 101, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Demonstrating how a simulated "digital twin" of regional innovation ecosystems can guide programming and asset decisions for research parks and innovation districts, utilizing an AURP member case study, the session will illustrate how calibrated models replicate historical growth, test alternatives future strategies, and reveal which types of university-linked programs, partnerships, and talent pipelines most strongly drive competitiveness, resilience, and long-run regional impact.

Lara Ferry, Vice President and Chief Research Innovation Officer, University of Oklahoma
Jeff Seymour, President and CEO, Oklahoma City Innovation District
Joe Simkins, Principal and Project Director, TEConomy Partners (Moderator)

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UNIVERSITIES AS THE NEW NETWORK EPICENTER: HOW RESEARCH PARKS CAN ANCHOR THE AI INFRASTRUCTURE ECONOMY

Room 104C, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Artificial intelligence, advanced research, life sciences, defense innovation, and next-generation economic development will all depend on one increasingly scarce resource: low-latency, resilient, locally interconnected network infrastructure. This panel will explore why university research parks and innovation districts are uniquely positioned to become the new regional epicenters of digital infrastructure through the development of carrier-neutral Internet Exchange Point facilities. This session will provide a practical roadmap for research parks that want to position themselves not only as places where innovation happens, but as the physical places where the region's digital economy connects.

Tonya Witherspoon, Founder/CEO, MindScapes
Hunter Newby, Founder, Newby Adventures; Director, Social Incentive Marketing
Brent Legg, Executive Vice President Government Affairs, Connected Nation (Moderator)

DESIGNING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS THAT SCALE

Room 104A, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Hear from leaders representing three stages of ecosystem development—from mature markets to emerging innovation communities. Learn how universities, accelerators, capital, corporate engagement and global partnerships can align to build and scale ecosystems that attract investment, create jobs and strengthen regional competitiveness.

Jordan Peterson, COO, Collaborative Real Estate
Jon McCarry, Executive Director, Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, University of North Texas
Shayna Hetzel, Vice President of Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.
Robert Pieroni, Managing Director of Strategic Partnerships & Business Development, gener8tor (Moderator)

5:15 – 5:45 **VISIONARY VOICES**

12th Floor, Pegasus Park

Drawing on the ideas, challenges and opportunities explored throughout the day, Tom Osha brings his unique perspective to what lies ahead for research parks and innovation districts. With decades of experience shaping communities of innovation plus insight through hosting The Commons Podcast, Tom will connect the day's conversations to the bigger picture—sharing insights, lessons learned and a forward-looking vision for how these communities can evolve, remain relevant and drive greater impact in the years ahead.

Thomas Osha, Executive Vice President, Wexford Science & Technology; Chair, Global Institute on Innovation Districts
Introductions by Linda Hall, Executive Vice President & CFO, NCInnovation, Inc.

5:45 – 6:15 **TRANSPORTATION FROM PEGASUS TO VIRGIN HOTEL**

SEE AURP MEETING APP FOR SCHEDULE

Sponsored by University of South Florida Research Foundation

7:00 **SMALL GROUP DINNERS**

Guests to sign-up online. All attendees welcome.

Thursday, October 1

All meetings held at Pegasus Park

7:30-8:15 **TRANSPORTATION FROM HOTEL TO PEGASUS**

SEE AURP MEETING APP FOR SCHEDULE

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8:00-9:00 **BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE TOPICS**

Sponsored by HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, JLL

12th Floor, Pegasus Park

This year's conference allows time to connect one-to-one to share your best practice, case study, or connection by region.

And as the rule with experimentation, sometimes you must pivot.

In lieu of our tour planned for Thursday morning, October 1, we will be holding Roundtable Topics to deep dive into the ideas, challenges and opportunities shaping the future of research parks and innovation districts.

*We're requesting your **SUBMISSIONS** for these Roundtables.*

AURP 2027 Future Events

- Spring Training 2027 — February 16-18, Tempe, AZ
- Bio Health Caucus — June 6-7, Philadelphia, PA
- International Conference — November 1-4, Indiana

Hosted by Purdue Research Park — The idea economy is here®, IoTech

9:00-9:15 TRANSITION BREAK

9:15-12:00 **CAUCUS TRACKS**

Attendees select one half-day Caucus experience.

Choose the track that best aligns with your interests and engage in focused discussions with innovation leaders.

AURP Bio Health Caucus, AURP Air & Space Caucus

9:15-12:00

12th Floor, Pegasus Park

OPTION 1: AURP Bio Health Caucus

9:15-9:30 **BIOHEALTH CAUCUS - OPENING REMARKS**

Emcee: Brian Darmody, Past President, AURP; Chief Strategy Officer, AURP

9:30-10:00 **EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS, INCLUDING STATE BIO HUBS**

Texas, like other large states, house many cities with their own bio clusters. Learn how North Texas and Houston work individually and within the overall Texas bio ecosystem for practices to employ in your state or region

Gina Ford, CEO, BioNTX

10:00-10:45 **FROM SILOS TO SYSTEMS: ACCELERATING INNOVATION TO IMPACT THROUGH ONE HEALTH INNOVATION DISTRICT**

Targeted at research park leaders and biotech professionals, this session unveils the Purdue-Elanco One Health Innovation District (OHID) model. Attendees explore how integrating human, animal, and plant health sectors accelerates discovery-to-commercialization.

Timothy Bettington, Executive Vice President, Center of Strategic Growth, Elanco
Jacob Denecke, Senior Director, Strategic Facility Initiatives, Purdue University
Kaethe Beck, Associate Vice President, Strategic Impact in the Life Sciences, Purdue University
Christy Wright, CEO, AgriNovus (Moderator)

10:45-11:00 BREAK

Sponsored by Kirksey Architecture

11:00-11:45 **FOUNDATIONS THAT SCALE: INNOVATION CAMPUSES AND BIOMANUFACTURING GROWTH**

High-growth biomanufacturing clusters require foundations that can scale with industry demand.

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Collaborative Real Estate, Research Triangle Park, STILETTO, The University of Arizona Tech Parks Arizona

This session highlights how K-State Olathe Innovation Campus and KC BioHub use an innovation campus model to anchor and attract CROs and CDMOs, support biotech expansion across human and animal health, and build a nimble and scalable biomanufacturing workforce. Attendees will gain practical insights into how shared facilities, applied training, and cross-sector collaboration can be implemented by research parks in diverse regions.

Melissa Roberts Chapman, President and Regional Innovation Officer, KC BioHub
Spencer Chestnut, Manager, Biologics Strategy Deployment Catalent, Pharma Solutions
Ben Wolfe, Dean and CEO, Kansas State University Olathe Innovation Campus (Moderator)

11:45-12:00 **BIO HEALTH CAUCUS CLOSING REMARKS**

OPTION 2:

9:15-12:00
Room 101, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

9:15-9:30 **AIR & SPACE CAUCUS - OPENING REMARKS**
Emcee: Marcel Johnson, Board Member, AURP; Senior Vice President, Talent & Technology Scouting & Identification, Port San Antonio

9:30-10:30 **ADVANCING AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS: FROM RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS**
See how research parks, UAS test sites and FAA Centers of Excellence are helping move advanced air mobility from research to real-world operations. Leaders from North Dakota, Port San Antonio and Texas A&M–Corpus Christi will highlight distinct regional models connecting university research, testing, industry and public-private partnerships to accelerate AAM and autonomous systems deployment.

Kara Hill, Director of Strategic Projects, Port San Antonio
Scott Snyder, Vice President Research & Economic Development, University of North Dakota
Albert Bejarano, Acting Associate Director, Center for Advanced Aviation Technologies, Autonomy Research Institute, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Michelle Duquette, Founder and CEO, 3 MAD Air (Moderator)

10:30-11:00 **QUANTUM TECH: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ON UNIVERSITIES, STATES AND CITIES**
Rapidly developing advances in quantum technologies twined with financial support from state and university sources are creating quantum hubs in Texas and across the country. Learn how these hubs will impact economic development in regions throughout North America.

Craig Miller, Director, Public Sector Strategy and Operations, IonQ

11:00-11:15 BREAK

Sponsored by Kirksey

11:15-11:45 **MEDCO– A SOLUTIONS PROVIDER FOR SUPPORT LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES**
This session will inform attendees on new operating models amenable to co-investment by the government and private market actors. Highlighting public-private partnership organizations that are structured to find solutions for long-term self-viability and success.

Thomas Sadowski, Executive Director, Maryland Economic Development Corporation

11:45-12:00 **AIR & SPACE CAUCUS CLOSING REMARKS**

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12:00 – 1:30 **NETWORKING LUNCH** Sponsored by

All registrants welcome
12th Floor, Pegasus Park
Pull up a chair and exchange real ideas with fellow innovators shaping what's next.
Additionally available are two small group tours of **BioLabs Pegasus Park** - 20 people each at 12:10, 12:40. Meet in Pegasus Park Lobby.

SPONSOR REMARKS
Tommy Luginbill, Executive Director, Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology at Montgomery College (PIC MC)

INSTALLATION OF 2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AURP PRESIDENT | Allison Madden, MBA, President, AURP; COO and Corporate Secretary, University of South Florida Research Park
AURP PRESIDENT ELECT | Jeff Smith, MBA, Vice President, AURP; Director, Research Parks, Michigan State University Research Foundation

1:30 – 2:15 **MAIN STAGE: THE INNOVATION LEADERSHIP PLAYBOOK: PERSPECTIVES FROM CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICERS**
12th Floor, Pegasus Park
University innovation leaders will come together to explore how innovation, economic development and strategic partnerships are emerging into a new era. Explore how these roles are structured and evolving within technology transfer, startup growth and how they are shaping their innovation ecosystems.

Craig Arnold, CIO, Princeton University
Daniel Hommes, MD, PhD, CIO, Innovation Hub, UT Southwestern
Ian McClure, JD, LLM, Vice President for Innovation, UK HealthCare; Associate Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Impact, UL Research
Scott Shrake, Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships, Colorado State University
Kevin Byrne, MBA, Past President, AURP; President and CEO, The University Financing Foundation (Moderator)

2:15 - 2:30 TRANSITION BREAK

2:30 – 3:15 **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

ALIGNING THE INNOVATION VALUE CHAIN: HOW RESEARCH, CAPITAL & REAL ESTATE CONVERGE
Room 101, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park
This panel brings together three leaders representing the full innovation district value chain: municipal economic development (Dallas EDC), innovation campus operations (Pegasus Park), and research enterprise leadership (University of Utah). Moderated by Julie Huls, the discussion examines how federal funding signals, research strengths, and commercialization intelligence can be translated into real estate and tenant strategy – ensuring innovation districts are built on validated research pipelines rather than speculative development.

David Snow, Executive Director, Pegasus Park
Linda McMahon, CEO, Dallas Economic Development Corporation
Dr. Erin Rothwell, Senior Vice President of Research; President, University of Utah Research Foundation
Julie Huls, Founder, InovaSignal.ai (Moderator)

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HOW VPRS ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH IN THE FACE OF AI TRANSFORMATION

Room 104C, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

As AI transforms research administration and discovery across disciplines, VPRs and senior research leaders are rethinking how universities build competitive, responsible research enterprises. This session examines how leaders are adapting operations, supporting researchers, and positioning institutions for an AI-enabled future. Attendees will gain practical insights into evolving priorities, challenges, and opportunities shaping the next era of university research and institutional strategy nationwide.

Marian McCord, Senior Vice President of Research and Knowledge Enterprise, Merrimack College
Youyou Cheng, Associate Vice President, Research Administration, University of Texas, Austin
Jordan Peterson, COO, Collaborative Real Estate (Moderator)

CREATING OPPORTUNITY: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS EDUCATION AND INNOVATION PARTNERS

Room 104A, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

As research parks and innovation districts compete on a global scale for talent and investment, workforce development has become one of the most important site selection and growth factors. This panel will explore how universities, industry, government, and regional partners collaborate to build talent pipelines that support innovation, attract employers, and create long-term economic growth.

Logan Ardrey, Assistant Director, National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES)
Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, EdD, Vice Chancellor of Workforce Education and President, Dallas College
Josh Curry, Director of Workforce and Operations, Purdue Research Foundation
Jeremy Slater, Vice President, Real Estate and Partnerships, Purdue Research Foundation (Moderator)

3:15 – 3:45 **NETWORKING BREAK**

Sponsored by

CLARK & ENERSEN TECONOMY PARTNERS LLC

3:45 – 4:30 **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

FROM CLOSURE TO CLUSTER: ANCHORING INNOVATION AFTER ECONOMIC DISRUPTION

Room 104C, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Economic disruption is often framed as decline – plant closures, institutional failures, and abandoned land. Yet across the United States, universities, cities and regional leaders have repeatedly transformed these moments of loss into opportunities, seeding research parks and innovation districts that anchor new economic futures. This session will highlight lessons learned and adapting in the face of sudden dislocation.

Beth Bowman, IOM, CCE, President & CEO, Greater Irving-Las Colinas, Chamber of Commerce
Tracy Shickel, At-Large Officer, AURP; Associate Vice President, Corporate Engagement, University of Delaware
Marcel Johnson, Board Member, AURP; Senior Vice President, Talent & Technology Scouting & Identification, Port San Antonio
Brian Darmody, Past President, AURP; Chief Strategy Officer, AURP (Moderator)

HIGH-IMPACT AREAS OF INNOVATION: CASE STUDIES AND TOOLKITS

Room 101, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

AOIs worldwide strive for impacts and financial sustainability, but relatively few achieve dramatic growth and become regional engines of prosperity. Come learn from leading global case studies of systematic development, along with a toolkit for achieving rapid economic growth and profound quality-of-place. Featuring insights from world-leading transformation program, MIT REAP; the Singapore's One North; and the renowned South-by-Southwest Festival.

Kavan O'Connor, Associate Director, MIT Sloan School of Business, REAP Program
One North Science Park, Singapore Government (*to be announced)*
Hugh Forrest, CEO, Gather and Grow
Larry Peterson, Executive Director, Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities (Moderator)

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WINNING THROUGH SPECIALIZATION: SECTOR STRATEGIES FOR HIGH-GROWTH INNOVATION DISTRICTS AND RESEARCH PARKS

Room 104A, 1st Floor, Pegasus Park

Specialization can be a powerful catalyst for growth. This session explores how research parks and innovation districts can leverage regional strengths, industry clusters and targeted sector strategies to differentiate their communities, attract investment and talent, and accelerate economic impact. Learn how a focused approach can transform existing assets into a competitive advantage for long-term growth.

Brendan Sullivan, Director of Strategy, CIC Captains of Innovation
Laura O'Blenis, Board Member, AURP; President & CEO, Stiletto: Make a Point
Carrie Allen, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, CIC Captains of Innovation (Moderator)

4:30 – 4:45 TRANSITION BREAK

4:45 – 5:15 **VISIONARY VOICES: FIRESIDE CHAT**

12th Floor, Pegasus Park

In this forward-looking fireside chat, industry and economic development perspectives come together to explore what's next for research parks and innovation districts. Mark Bruso and Beth Bowman will share insights on the forces reshaping these communities—from evolving market and real estate dynamics to changing industry needs, partnerships and regional competitiveness—and what leaders should be thinking about today to position their communities for tomorrow.

Mark Bruso, Global Research Lead, Life Sciences & Healthcare, JLL
Aimee Rowbottom, Regional Market Solutions Leader, Cities and Places, Jacobs
Beth Bowman, IOM, CCE, President & CEO, Greater Irving-Las Colinas, Chamber of Commerce (Moderator)

5:15 – 5:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

12th Floor, Pegasus Park

AURP PRESIDENT (2025-2026)
Allison Madden, MBA, President, AURP; COO and Corporate Secretary, University of South Florida Research Park

5:30– 6:00 **TRANSPORTATION FROM PEGASUS TO VIRGIN HOTEL**
SEE AURP MEETING APP FOR SCHEDULE

Sponsored by foresight science tech

6:30 **SMALL GROUP DINNERS**
Guests to sign-up online. All attendees welcome.

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