



From the Office of the President

February 22, 2017

Greetings NMT Faculty, Staff, and Students:

I am pleased to share some exciting news with our campus community. New Mexico Tech has contracted with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Research Competitiveness Program to assist our university in making an assessment and providing recommendations as we reorganize and streamline the processes related to our intellectual property endeavors on campus.

The Research Competitiveness Program of AAAS provides programmatic review and guidance services to universities, non-profit institutions, and state government agencies concerned with issues of competitive research, development, and innovation. Through this program AAAS has recruited an external panel of four experts with experience in the development, implementation, and management of technology transfer processes at an institutional level.

The committee of experts and one AAAS staff member will consult with NMT administrators, faculty, students and staff, ultimately providing a written report of their assessment to the President, institution, and affiliated entities. The committee members will be:

- Mark Crowell, VP, Innovation and Economic Development, and Professor of Practice of Entrepreneurship, King Abdullah University of Science & Technology, Saudi Arabia, formerly the VP of Innovation and Associate VPR at University of Virginia
- Dr. Daniel C. Flynn, Vice President for Research, Florida Atlantic University
- Dr. Steve Kubisen, Managing Director of Technology Commercialization Office, George Washington University
- Dr. Ian McCarthy, Professor in Technology & Operations Management, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, Director of the CPA Innovation Centre (Simon Fraser University, Canada)
- Dr. Shaaretha Pelly, senior AAAS staff member, with expertise in programmatic assessment.

Representatives of the AAAS Committee will be on campus for three days of meetings from March 1 to 3. We have planned an aggressive schedule of meetings between New Mexico Tech stakeholders and the AAAS Committee members. The AAAS visit includes an open forum geared toward NMT faculty members and staff scientists. This informational session will be from 3:40 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, in the Fire and Ice lounge in the Fidel Center. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about our efforts to attend and provide input.

The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, as well as my goals for our university, include a renewed focus on creating a strong system for marketing and commercializing the many inventions and discoveries that our faculty, staff and students develop on a regular basis. We've charged the AAAS Committee with assessing our existing

infrastructure and providing guidance and advice on how NMT can provide the best opportunities and the most efficient organizational structures to support inventors, entrepreneurs, and commercialization efforts.

The Research Competitive Program has been tasked with the following:

Evaluate current practices, policies, and functions

Recommend new processes that will facilitate IP procedures and lead to increased revenue

Recommend staffing and budgetary requirements to create framework to support monetization

Identify roles that existing NMT entities should play in these endeavors

Provide advice on how to utilize and leverage contractors and other outside entities

Suggest internal funding structures that will allow for growth of research

Identify other areas of potential streamlining.

This is a first, but critically important, step in our ongoing effort to support the innovative and ground-breaking research projects we have in our academic departments and our research divisions. I'm looking forward to your support and participation in this new and exciting initiative.

Best regards,

Dr. Stephen Wells
President, New Mexico Tech