

CHAPTERS

NAI Chapters play an important role in our innovation ecosystem. In addition to serving their respective university communities, chapters highlight the achievements of NAI Members and promote innovation through events, ceremonial inductions, activities, and more. Chapters foster an ideal innovation culture at their institutions and in their communities, creating a shared network in which inventors are recognized, supported, and celebrated.

The Academy's Chapter network currently includes 50 official chapters which offer the unique benefit of local collaboration, support, and honor for individual inventors at NAI Member Institutions who translate their research for the benefit of society. NAI Member Institutions also have the exclusive opportunity of naming NAI Senior Members, and their Chapters allow them to recognize IP and innovation champions from across the ecosystem as Chapter Members and Honorary Members. The Chapters are also essential vehicles to nurture and engage students, as well as institutional and community leaders who facilitate innovation. We are pleased to recognize the 6 new chapters that were established this fiscal year: The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Northeastern University, Tufts University, University of California Riverside, and The George Washington University.

To further recognize the important work of NAI Chapters, the Academy has launched the Chapter of Excellence Awards. The inaugural awards were presented at NAI's 12th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. this year and were awarded to Florida Atlantic University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and University of California, San Diego for the contributions their chapters have made to the innovation ecosystem.

If you are interested in starting your own NAI Chapter, visit our Chapter Resource Page. ▶

CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Since its inception in 2019, FAU's NAI Chapter has established a suite of programs to recognize and encourage innovators, mentor innovative students, and enhance the visibility of academic invention. In June, the Chapter launched a new mentorship program. In collaboration with FAU Wave, an undergraduate and graduate applied research and entrepreneurial competition, Chapter Members are connected to students to provide education and guidance in specific research areas.

Read more about the new mentorship program. ▶



32 MEMBERS

CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

This year, NJIT integrated their annual Undergraduate Summer Research and Innovation Symposium with their NAI Chapter's Innovation Day to celebrate and recognize the university's inventive students, faculty, and staff. The two-day event featured presentations from over 150 students as well as talks from distinguished keynote speakers, including NJIT President and NAI Fellow Teik Lim, NAI Fellow Dereje Agonafer, and NAI Executive Director Jamie Renee. The event also included the induction of the Chapter's newest members and the nomination of 59 students into the NAI-NJIT Student Innovator and Inventor Club (SI2C) to be officially inducted in the fall of 2023.

Learn more about NJIT's Chapter. ▶



47 MEMBERS

CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

At UC San Diego, invention is in our DNA. We are home to 18 NAI fellows, including current and emeritus faculty, and last year, our research program generated more than 500 new invention disclosures, including over 200 new patents. The university's commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship runs deep and goes beyond the campus borders.

UC San Diego inventors and founders Dr. Leanne Chukoskie and Dr. Jeanne Townsend are prime examples. BrainLeap Technologies provides brain-training software that helps children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) improve their concentration and motor skills. It is the only research-based, gaze-driven system designed to train foundational attention skills.

With funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, the BrainLeap team has expanded its reach to make attention training broadly accessible for children and adolescents. This coming year, they will expand research efforts to older adults via cognitive enhancement training, providing people a powerful tool in the fight against dementia.

While programs like Institute for the Global Entrepreneur, The Basement and StartR at the Rady School of Management support students and faculty in their startup endeavors, capital projects like the Design and Innovation Building and UC San Diego @ Park & Market are another way UC San Diego promises to strengthen the connection between the campus and industry partners, government entities and community members.

The University of California San Diego was the first University of California campus to establish a chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), a move that helped the campus build and sustain a more robust innovation ecosystem. This designation provided tools and resources to help UC San Diego raise the profile of its inventions and technologies, encourage innovations on campus and educate student entrepreneurs.



18 MEMBERS