

SUSTAINING MEMBER

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

NC State University is a research powerhouse and a strong economic engine for North Carolina. With seven innovators inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, and more than 26 NAI Fellows and several Senior Members, NC State University is committed to collaborating with the NAI to achieve their vision. NC State's Office of Research Commercialization (ORC) protects and promotes university research discoveries and intellectual property, works with and guides industry partners, boosts the acceleration of startups and drives economic growth by facilitating the commercialization of research discoveries.

NAI Annual Conference:

North Carolina State University and its Office of Research Commercialization hosted the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Annual Conference in Raleigh for the first time in the conference's history.

Over 400 attendees registered for the event, making it the highest attended NAI annual conference to date. Event panels and presentations were centered around the meeting theme of "Unlocking Innovation: Keys to Societal Solutions", with a particular focus on the innovation ecosystem and the role it plays in the successful translation of academic research discoveries into impactful solutions to real-world problems.

The history of research commercialization at NC State was also highlighted, along with a vision in which the NC State continues to grow its support and acceleration of exciting research innovations.

Two NC State faculty inventors were inducted into the 2023 Class of Fellows during the event. Dr. Craig Yencho, a renowned sweet potato and potato researcher, and Dr. Ken Adler, a leader in airway disease research, were both inducted as Fellows along with 160 other academic inventors from across the country.

The conference also played host to the "Change Your Game" exhibit, a mobile learning exhibit hosted in partnership with the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. This interactive, hands-on, mobile STEM lab provided an opportunity for local middle school students from various schools in Raleigh to experiment to solve invention challenges centered around sports, with a goal of fostering an inventive identity in young students.