

**SUSTAINING MEMBER**

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

At UC Riverside (UCR), collaboration continues to drive progress, innovation, and regional development. During 2024, UCR reinforced its commitment to sustainable innovation and economic impact through targeted initiatives, strategic partnerships, and recognition of its accomplishments.

**Fostering Innovation and Supporting Inventors**

This year, UCR served 144 unique inventors through the acceptance of new invention disclosures and execution of intellectual property (IP) related agreements:

- 64 faculty members
- 40 graduate students
- 19 postdocs
- 19 staff members
- 1 undergraduate student
- 1 volunteer

These efforts resulted in 76 newly accepted invention disclosures spanning the life sciences—such as human therapeutics and diagnostics, environmental biotechnology, and agricultural technology—and the physical sciences and engineering, including robotics and automation, materials science and engineering, chemical synthesis and processes, data science and information technology, and instrumentation and sensors. Additionally, UCR finalized 11 IP license agreements and 2 IP option agreements, showcasing the depth and diversity of UCR's innovation pipeline.

**Driving Economic Development**

UCR strengthened its commitment to regional growth by focusing on the commercialization of university-developed intellectual property and supporting startups:

**Proof-of-Concept (POC) Programs:** Funded through UCOP and campus initiatives to advance early-stage innovations.

**Startup Support:** UCR continued to launch and assist startups, contributing to the economic vibrancy of Inland Southern California.

**Licensing and Patent Management:** UCR worked to diversify and maximize royalty revenues and manage patent expenses.

Recent licensing successes include the partnership between Helicoid Industries and CCM Hockey, which brought hockey sticks featuring UCR's blade technology to market, making advanced innovations accessible to the public. Additionally, UCR executed a record-breaking fully-paid exclusive license with Enza Zaden B.V., a global vegetable breeding company based in the Netherlands, for its green asparagus breeding program, marking the largest up-front payment in UCR's licensing history.

### **Sustainable Innovation and Community Engagement**

The 2024 SoCal OASIS™ Challenge Pitch Finals, hosted by UCR's Office of Technology Partnerships (OTP), was a testament to the university's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship for societal and environmental impact. Held at the Riverside Convention Center, this dynamic event brought together over 150 entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and community members. Five sustainability-focused startups presented transformative solutions in areas such as agriculture technology; affordable, energy-efficient housing; o-zone friendly manufacturing, and next-generation silicon production.

#### **The winners included:**

1st Place (\$75,000): Super Foam

2nd Place (\$40,000): Seedorina

3rd Place (\$30,000): 4th State Energies

People's Choice (\$5,000): HexHomes

### **Leadership in Innovation Ecosystems**

UCR's Life Sciences Incubator, located in the LEED Platinum-certified Multidisciplinary Research Building, supports 10 companies developing cutting-edge technologies in biotechnology, agriculture, and medicine. Through its EPIC Small Business Development Center (SBDC), UCR has:

- Supported 326 startups
- Provided over 11,000 hours of expert mentorship
- Trained more than 600 entrepreneurs
- Raised over \$70 million in capital
- Created 500+ jobs

### **Building a Sustainable Future**

Central to UCR's vision for regional development is the SoCal OASIS™ Park, a hub for clean energy, climate resilience, and sustainable technologies. The park will house state-of-the-art research labs, incubator spaces, and testbeds, fostering collaboration among academia, industry, and the community. Complementary initiatives such as the Build to Scale Program, the Inland SoCal OASIS™ Climate Action and Innovation Conference, and the SBIR/ STTR Conference further highlight UCR's leadership in sustainability, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

### **Global Innovation Hub**

UCR's partnerships with regional stakeholders, including the City of Riverside and Riverside County, attracted global innovators like Voltu, Ohmio, and Seedorina to establish or expand operations in Inland Southern California. These collaborations emphasize the transformative power of academia-industry partnerships in positioning the region as a global destination for innovation.

### **Recognition and Impact**

In 2024, UCR was honored as a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Leader, received the Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification for Community Engagement, and earned the APLU Innovation & Economic Prosperity (IEP) designation. These distinctions reflect UCR's dedication to driving inclusive opportunities and advancing impactful initiatives.

As UCR continues to drive sustainable innovation, foster entrepreneurship, and contribute to economic growth, it remains committed to shaping a future defined by progress and inclusivity. Through partnerships, transformative programs, and recognition of its talented inventors and startups, UCR solidifies its role as a leader in regional and global innovation.