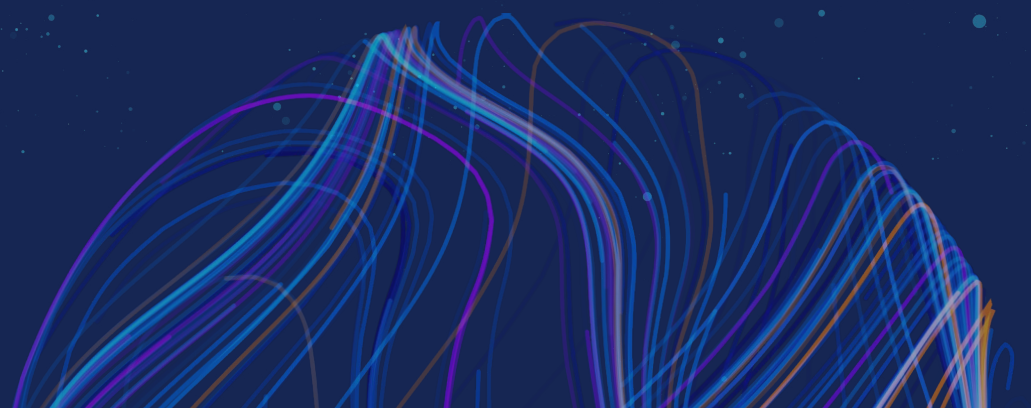
NAI
National Academy of Inventors

2025 NAI ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT



LETTER FROM *the* PRESIDENT

On behalf of the National Academy of Inventors' Board of Directors and staff, it is my distinct pleasure to share the Academy's 2025 Activities Report.

This year marked a milestone for the Academy as we celebrated our 15th anniversary. What began in 2010 as a bold vision to elevate and recognize inventors has grown into a global movement that is reshaping the culture of innovation. In 2025, we experienced a banner year—one that reflects both the strength of our community and the increasing national importance of invention, intellectual property, and technology translation.

Inaugurated by the United States Patent in Trademark Office in 2010, NAI stands as one of the three honorific organizations recognized by the USPTO. Today, the Academy now includes 2,253 Fellows, 945 Senior Members, and more than 50 Chapters representing over 2,000 members. More than 260 academic, government, and nonprofit research institutions are proud NAI Member Institutions. Together, this distinguished network is advancing discovery, accelerating commercialization, mentoring future innovators, and strengthening innovation ecosystems at the local, state, national, and global levels.

While we take pride in how far we have come in just 15 years, our focus remains firmly on the future. The question guiding us is not only what we have achieved—but what we will build next.

As we move into 2026, we are launching new initiatives and expanding programs designed to increase opportunity, visibility, and impact for our members and the broader innovation community. We are deepening collaborations with industry partners and government agencies like the USPTO to demonstrate how innovation drives economic growth, societal progress, and national competitiveness. At the same time, we remain committed to identifying barriers within the innovation ecosystem and advancing solutions that accelerate the journey from ideation to marketplace, celebrate inventors at every stage of their careers, and elevate public understanding of the power of research and invention.

The future of innovation will be shaped by bold thinkers and dedicated institutions working together. The National Academy of Inventors is proud to stand at the center of that effort.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. The Academy exists to honor, support, and amplify you—the members and partners who are building the future.

Sincerely,
Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI
President
National Academy of Inventors

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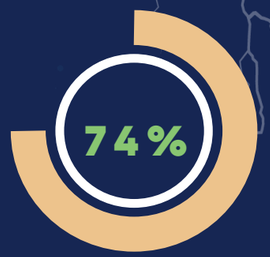
SPONSORSHIP

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE INCLUDED

32
SPONSORS
FROM INDUSTRY PARTNERS, UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES.



OF 2024 SPONSORS RETURNED IN 2025

OF RETURNING SPONSORS MET OR INCREASED THEIR SPONSORSHIP

200%
INCREASE IN INDUSTRY SPONSORSHIPS SINCE 2024

21
NEW SPONSORS HAVE JOINED SINCE 2024

The greatest minds in the innovation community gather here.

The NAI Annual Conference

FORWARD TOGETHER

INNOVATING *with* PURPOSE

This year, the stage was set in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23 - 26. Over 480 inventors, government leaders, industry icons, teachers, and students alike flocked to the South in pursuit of education and community.

With the year's theme, Forward Together: Innovating with Purpose, in mind, 81 speakers took to the podium in 20 sessions throughout the conference.

Made possible through the generosity of our sponsors and hosts, including Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia, the conference was truly remarkable.

NEWLY INDUCTED MEMBERS

170 NEW FELLOWS	HOLDING OVER	**5000** PATENTS	REPRESENTING	**135** INSTITUTIONS
162 NEW SENIOR MEMBERS	HOLDING OVER	**1200** PATENTS	REPRESENTING	**64** INSTITUTIONS

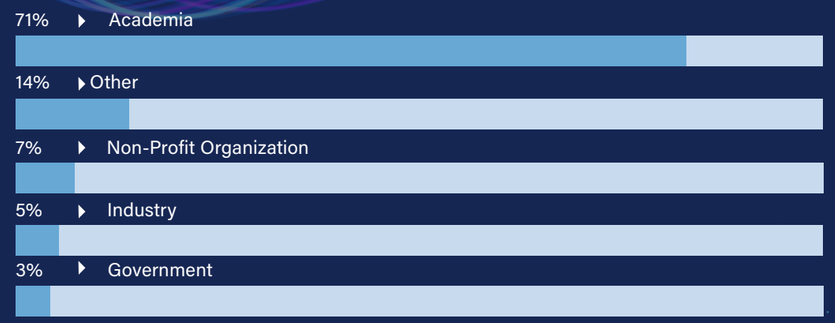
2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IMPACT REPORT

THE ACADEMY AT-A-GLANCE

278 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS
38 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
55 CHAPTERS
2068 FELLOWS
715 SENIOR MEMBERS
81.6K LIFETIME PATENTS
7K LIFETIME PATENTS

The National Academy of Inventors Annual Conference is a cross-section of the brightest minds, prolific inventors, institutional and government leaders, and technology transfer champions that gather to rally around unified goals, share best practices, and scale invention and pursue innovation in our nation and beyond.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE



480+ ATTENDEES
81 SPEAKERS
20+ SESSIONS

ATTENDEES REPRESENTED

115 NAI MEMBERS INSTITUTIONS
6 COUNTRIES
51 AAU UNIVERSITIES
11 LEADERS OF INDUSTRY INSTITUTIONS & RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS
51 R1 RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES
8 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

MEDIA REACH

LinkedIn	**8.7K** FOLLOWERS	**32K+** IMPRESSIONS DURING & FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING	**78%** INCREASE IN SHARES THE WEEK DURING & FOLLOWING THE EVENT*	**235%** INCREASE IN REACTIONS THE WEEK DURING & FOLLOWING THE EVENT*
X	**5.7K** FOLLOWERS	**10.5K+** IMPRESSIONS DURING & FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING	**757%** INCREASE IN SHARES THE WEEK DURING & FOLLOWING THE EVENT*	**241%** INCREASE IN REACTIONS THE WEEK DURING & FOLLOWING THE EVENT*
Email	**8.7K** NEW CONTACTS	**33K+** INDIVIDUAL OPENS FROM EMAIL CAMPAIGNS	**49K+** TOTAL VIEWS FROM EMAIL CAMPAIGNS	**34K+** TOTAL CLICKS FROM EMAIL CAMPAIGNS

*COMPARED TO ANALYTICS FOR A STANDARD TWO WEEK PERIOD

CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION *of* INNOVATORS

The Student Showcase highlighted exceptional student inventors from across the globe, providing a platform for them to present their innovations and connect with world-class inventors, academic leaders, and industry experts. Participants gained mentorship, networked with attendees, and received invaluable feedback to refine their work.

The event was made possible through the support of partners like the Genspiration Foundation, co- founded by Judy Genshaft, FNAI and Steven Greenbaum, HonNAI. Judy and Steven are dedicated to advancing student innovations that create societal and economic impact, including through the Genspiration Prize, which was awarded to student teams whose inventions demonstrated significant societal impact.

The Showcase, which underscores the importance of cultivating young inventors who represent the future of innovation and may one day join the ranks of Academy Fellows and Senior members, featured a second award. The Dr. Barry B. Bercu Biomedical University Inventors Prize, recognizes groundbreaking biomedical innovations that address critical healthcare challenges and may one day hold the potential to transform patient care.

Both Showcase awards featured monetary prizes to help fund and grow recipients' innovations. Finalists for the Student Showcase received full accommodations and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Conference to learn from and network with top inventors and industry leaders from around the world.

The Showcase applicant pool consisted of nearly 70 next-generation inventors representing more than 30 innovative institutions and organizations. The students' inventions covered fields such as biotechnology, civil engineering, medicine, electrical engineering, and computer science.

Both the Genspiration Prize and the Dr. Barry B. Bercu Biomedical University Inventors Prize were created by NAI Fellows and their families as a way to "pay it forward." Through their contributions, they have cemented a legacy for supporting and encouraging the next generation of inventors across the nation.

Interested in creating a lasting impact?

LEARN MORE

CONFERENCE AWARDS

As the global innovation landscape continues to evolve, the importance of fostering collaboration and recognizing the brilliant minds behind life-changing breakthroughs has never been more critical. Each year, the world's most forward-thinking researchers, academic leaders, and rising student pioneers gather to share insights that bridge the gap between laboratory discovery and real-world impact. Highlighting this commitment to excellence, the 14th Annual Conference served as a vibrant stage for honoring those who have pushed the boundaries of science and technology. From veteran inventors transforming sustainable energy to students reimagining medical accessibility, the event underscored a collective mission to uplift the entire innovation ecosystem.

NAI Celebrates Impactful Innovators During Their Annual Conference Tampa, FL – July 17, 2025
The National Academy of Inventors (NAI) is pleased to announce the recipients of their prestigious annual awards presented June 23rd-26th during their 14th Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The event not only brings together some of the greatest minds from across the globe to share their research and insights, but also serves as a premiere opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions and impacts made by NAI Members and champions within the innovation ecosystem.

AWARDS PRESS RELEASE

- US Office of Technology Commercialization, Department of Energy/NAI Innovator of the Year Award: Jay Keasling, FNAI, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Yogi and Lovely Goswami Award in Energy and Sustainability: Martin Green, University of New South Wales
- Genspiration Young Inventors Prize in the K-8 category: Dylan, Ohio Invention Convention
- Genspiration Young Inventors Prize in the 9-12 category: Arnav Chaphalkar, Chicago Invention Convention
- Genspiration University Inventors Prize: Aditi Bhattamishra, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- The Dr. Barry Bercu Biomedical University Inventor Prize: Louis DeRidder, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University
- NAI Chapter of Excellence Award: Tufts University
- Sentinel Award: Stephen Susalka, HonNAI, CEO of AUTM, and Phil Weilerstein, HonNAI, CEO and Founder of VentureWell
- Founders Award: Sudeep Sarkar, FNAI, NAI Board Member and Interim Dean of the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing at the University of South Florida
- Presidential Fellow Award: Sethuraman Panchanathan, FNAI, former Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), and Andrei Iancu, HonNAI, Partner at Sullivan and Cromwell, LLC and former Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

A THANK YOU *to* OUR SPONSORS

We'd like to take a moment to thank our sponsors, without whose generosity the Annual Conference would not be possible. Thank you to Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia for being the hosts of our event, and for allowing us to bring together this incredible community in 2025.

Augusta University · Emory University · the florida high tech corridor · fulgent · Georgia Institute of Technology

GenIP · Georgia State University · Kennesaw State University · MichelsonIP Institute · Morehouse School of Medicine

NJIT New Jersey Institute of Technology · ORAU · Perilla Knox & Hildebrandt LLP · PTIE · Stony Brook University

Tufts University · University of Central Florida · UConn University of Connecticut · University of Georgia · The University of Alabama Center for Convergent Bioscience & Medicine

University of Delaware · University of South Florida · UTA The University of Texas at Arlington · VCU · VentureWell idea to impact

CONFERENCE AWARDS








Top left: Stephen Susalka, HonNAI and Phil Weilerstein, HonNAI receiving the Sentinel Award; **Top right:** Andrei Iancu, HonNAI, and Sethuraman Panchanathan, FNAI receiving the inaugural Presidential Fellow Award; **2nd row left:** Jay Keasling, FNAI receiving the US Office of Technology Commercialization, Department of Energy/NAI Innovator of the Year Award; **2nd row middle:** NAI Board Member Sudeep Sarkar, FNAI receiving the Founders Award; **2nd row right:** Louis DeRidder receiving the Dr. Barry B. Bercu Biomedical University Inventor Prize; **3rd row left:** Tufts University accepting the Chapter of Excellence Award; **3rd row right:** Dylan Mudalige receiving the Genspiration Young Inventors Prize in the K-8 category; **bottom row left:** Arnav Chaphalkar receiving the Genspitation Young Inventors Prize in the 9-12 category; and **bottom row right:** Aditi Bhattamishra receiving the Genspiration University Inventors Prize

BEHIND *the* CURTAINS

Celebrating the achievements of our community is of the utmost importance to us, especially when they change the world and improve countless lives. There are many technologies that are improving our quality of life, however the general public often has no clue that they originated at NAI Member Institutions.

The From Campus to Commerce video series aims to change this. In this series, the National Academy of Inventors showcases the work behind the curtains, highlighting the creation and commercialization process that brought to market some of the incredible inventions created by our Member Institutions.

This series explores collaboration between inventors, technology transfer officers, institutional administration, and private sector leaders among other key players in the process. Through exploring the journeys of these innovations, we showcase the transition from workshop to marketplace, demonstrate the impact of these innovations on the lives of consumers, and celebrate the achievements of our Member Institutions.

FEATURED UNIVERSITIES

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill featuring AskBio
- Auburn University featuring VaporWake
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte featuring AquiSense

SHOWCASE YOUR INSTITUTION

To learn more about or watch the From Campus to Commerce series, please navigate to the From Campus to Commerce page on our website.

Want to showcase your institution's project on From Campus to Commerce?
Contact info@academyofinventors.org to schedule a meeting.

RECOGNIZING INVENTORS
ONE ARTICLE AT A TIME

While innovation and invention serve as building blocks of progress, it's common to see contemporary inventors go unrecognized for their societal contributions. The goal of the Invention Insider publication is to change this. Invention Insider gives the National Academy of Inventors a platform to recognize members of our community and the innovation community at large for their transformative work. The publication also offers a look into the personal innovation journeys and inspiration behind transformative innovations.

- Martin Thuo, FNAI, North Carolina State University
- Ogheneyunume Fitchorova, Northeastern University
- Charles Magee, SMNAI, Florida A&M University
- Fleur Tehrani, FNAI, California State University, Fullerton
- Nichole Mercier, HonNAI, Washington University in St. Louis
- Surya Mallapragada, FNAI, Iowa State University
- Anuradha Godavarty, SMNAI, Florida International University
- Hari Kalva, FNAI, Florida Atlantic University
- Lan Yang, SMNAI, Washington University in St. Louis
- Jeongwon Park, SMNAI, University of Nevada, Reno
- Jose Joaqun (J.J.) Garcia-Luna-Aceves, FNAI, University of Toronto, Canada
- Gerardo Gamez, Texas Tech University
- Rosibel Ochoa, University of California, Riverside

LEARN MORE

INVENTION INSIDER
The Faces Behind the Breakthroughs

PROGRAMS AND PUBLICATIONS

SKILLS *for* SUCCESS
IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In partnership with the Michelson Institute for Intellectual Property, the **National Academy of Inventors Intellectual Property** course is designed to help innovators gain an intimate understanding of the U.S. Intellectual Property system. The curriculum, which helps pave the way for a successful career in innovation, thoughtfully describes the fundamentals of Intellectual Property – completely free of charge.

Through ensuring that our Members have the skills to set them up for success, we're dedicated to increasing intellectual property education. Over 800 universities and organizations across the United States utilize this course, educating all students of the program about the importance of intellectual property in research and invention advancement.

WEBINARS HOSTED *by our* COMMUNITY'S GREATEST MINDS

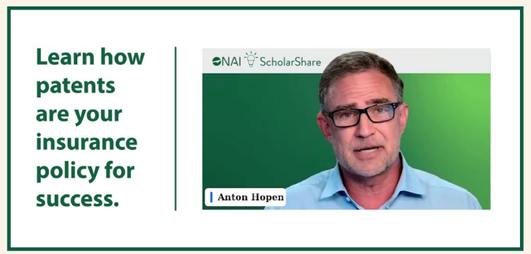
Looking to connect your innovators with the broader innovation community? The ScholarShare series is an incredible resource for Member Institutions where world-class leaders of our community share their insights and discoveries with the innovation ecosystem at large.

Engage in discussions about topics like intellectual property protection, securing funding, cutting-edge research of the present, and more while gaining insight into modern advancements across multiple disciplines.

Unlocking Innovation: The Strategic Role of Patents and NAI Programs
- Anton Hopen, J.D., Managing Partner, Smith & Hopen
- Julie Akhter, J.D., Director of Programs, NAI

Fellow Spotlight - Todd Cohen, FNAI
- Todd Cohen, FNAI, Professor and Director of Medical Device Innovation, New York Institute of Technology

How We Built This: A Blueprint for Accelerating Academic Entrepreneurship
- Christy Wyskiel, Executive Director, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV)



GETTING INVOLVED

For access to this series, navigate to the ScholarShare page on our website. **Hope to host a ScholarShare webinar?** Contact events@academyofinventors to schedule yours.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Technology & Innovation (T&I), the official journal of the NAI, is where groundbreaking ideas come to life. As a multidisciplinary platform, T&I explores invention and innovation across every corner of the innovation ecosystem, from emerging technologies to strategies for turning research into real-world impact.

Last year, T&I published three standout issues. A special edition, "Patient, Activity, and Organizational Level Experiences with Technology and Innovation in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Rehabilitation," was curated by guest editors M. Jason Highsmith and Michael Carroll, while two general issues featured articles spanning diverse topics and disciplines, showcasing the breadth and depth of innovation shaping today's world.

We extend our thanks to Taylor & Francis, our publishing partner whose commitment to connecting and supporting researchers mirrors the Academy's mission. Through this partnership, T&I continues to highlight transformative research and innovations, keeping our member network informed, inspired, and connected.

EXPLORE T&I

TOP 100 -&- TOP 60 LISTS

Across the globe, academic and research institutions are developing technologies that are creating, or have the potential to create incredible societal and economic impact. Protecting this intellectual property through U.S. patents is a vital step in moving these technologies to the marketplace. The NAI rankings, released annually using data obtained from the USPTO, aims to highlight the critical role patenting plays in translating research and innovation at both a national and global level. These rankings provide a valuable resource to the institutions as well, helping them track their issued patents and showcasing the impact of their technology transfer process and commercialization endeavors.

The rankings have been published by the Academy for over a decade and have expanded to create comprehensive and focused views of the innovation landscape. The rankings include the Top 100 Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents, Top 100 U.S. Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents, showcasing both global and national institutions dedication to IP protection through U.S. patents, and the Top 60 Non-Profit Research Institutions and Government Agencies list.

View the Top 100 Worldwide Universities List
View the Top 100 U.S. Universities List
View the Top 60 Non-Profit Research Institutions and Government Agencies list

CREATING A NETWORK

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

To us, there is nothing more important than community and connection within the greater innovation ecosystem. So, the Global Academic Inventor Network (or GAIN) is designed to connect the world's leading inventors and inventive students through a networking platform designed exclusively for individual and Institutional Members of the National Academy of Inventors.

GAIN is a global gateway to collaboration, mentorship, and communication between decorated inventors, administrators, faculty, and students, offering members exclusive resources and opportunities within the easy-to-use platform.

In the future, we will be introducing further programs into this specialized network to lend further resources to our Member Institutions, and help celebrate the achievements of our community.

To learn more and explore programs, please navigate to the GAIN page on our website:

LEARN MORE

INVENTION AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The NAI USPTO Invention Ambassador Program showcases distinguished inventors across sectors and disciplines who demonstrate how innovation drives social, economic, and environmental progress. Our mission is to honor academic invention, share ecosystem best practices, and cultivate a global culture of innovation that creates lasting impact.

Representing a broad spectrum of expertise, our Ambassadors are available for both in-person and virtual engagements. They connect with students, educators, and leaders across the public and private sectors to inspire the next generation of pioneers.

LEARN MORE

MEMBER INSTITUTION STATS:

86%

OF R1 UNIVERSITIES ARE NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

95%

OF AAU UNIVERSITIES ARE NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

48%

OF APLU UNIVERSITIES ARE NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

58%

OF THE INSTITUTIONS ON THE 2024 TOP 100 WORLDWIDE PATENTING UNIVERSITIES LIST ARE NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

96%

OF THE INSTITUTIONS ON THE 2024 TOP 100 U.S. PATENTING UNIVERSITIES LIST ARE NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

GREAT MINDS, GREATER COMMUNITY

What does it mean to be a National Academy of Inventors Institutional Member?

It's about communicating ideas, learning new skills, sharing resources, and, most importantly, being part of a community.

With over 260 world-wide universities, non-profit, and governmental research organizations holding NAI institutional membership, we are proud to create a culture of innovation on a global scale.

Our Member Institutions, who represent 48 American states and 17 countries, are the pride of this organization. Through partnering with NAI, these Institutions signal to the community their commitment to innovation, recognize and showcase their faculty, staff and students through frequent celebration, and pioneer societal and economic progress.

Getting Involved

There is no other community as dedicated to innovation and progress as our Institutional Membership. Visit our website to discover the benefits of joining our network, including access to our educational materials, publications, and annual conference.

Already a member and want to celebrate your achievements with our community at large?

Submit your news to info@academyofinventors.org to be featured on NAI social media and in our newsletter.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

our NEWEST INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

On behalf of our existing Members and leadership board, we would like to welcome the Newest Institutional Members of the National Academy of Inventors to our community. We look forward to the remarkable achievements and lasting impact to come.

- University at Albany, State University of New York
- Baylor University
- The City University of New York
- Georgia Southern University
- Kennesaw State University
- uOttawa
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
- UTMB Health
- Yonsei University

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP PROJECTS

NAI Sustaining Members demonstrate the highest commitment to facilitating innovation, not just at their own Institution, but in the broader innovation ecosystem as well. These Institutions are dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the inventors of today and tomorrow, supporting next generation inventors, and honoring their inventive faculty through expanded NAI Chapter opportunities. With their support, The Academy is able to develop programs and resources that serve the needs of both experienced and rising innovators — enabling innovators to be supported at every stage of their innovation journey.

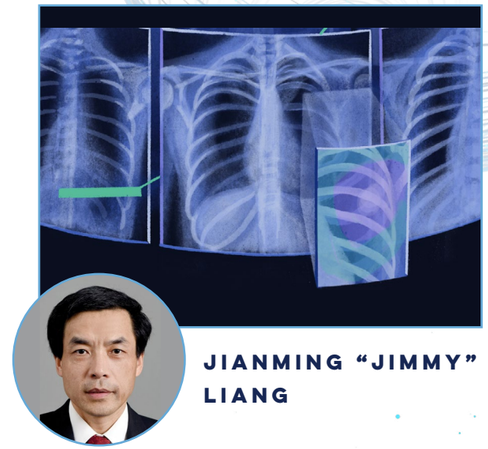
Arizona State University
Auburn University
UC Riverside
UCF
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Northwell Health
University of Florida
Miami University
NC State University
University of Nebraska Lincoln
NYU
Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University
University of South Florida
Texas Tech University
United Arab Emirates University
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Technology Commercialization
University of Wyoming

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

EXPERT-BACKED AI TOOL INCREASES X-RAY DIAGNOSIS ACCURACY

Researchers at Arizona State University, led by Professor Jianming "Jimmy" Liang, have developed Ark+, an AI tool designed to improve the accuracy of chest X-ray diagnoses. Trained on more than 700,000 images and enhanced by physicians' detailed notes, the tool can identify both common and rare conditions and has outperformed existing proprietary software. Ark+ can also be adapted for other types of medical imaging and updated to detect new diseases without full retraining.

Built as an open platform, Ark+ allows researchers and clinics to customize and improve its use. With expanded computing power from Intel, Liang plans to advance the technology to detect and precisely locate diseases throughout the body, further supporting efforts to improve patient outcomes through AI-driven diagnostics.



JIANMING "JIMMY" LIANG

LEARN MORE

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) made significant strides in 2025 in advancing its role as a global leader in innovation and societal impact. The university led local institutions in patent filings, granted patents, and licensing revenue, with 575 patents filed, 425 granted, and 65 licenses executed. Its strong focus on translating research into real-world applications was further demonstrated by securing the highest number of projects under Hong Kong's RAISe+ Scheme, spanning areas such as healthcare, robotics, energy, and advanced manufacturing.

CUHK also achieved major breakthroughs through its InnoHK centers, including innovations in AI-driven diagnostics, tele-robotic surgery, and smart technologies for public and industrial use. Strategic partnerships with global organizations and continued investment in talent development have strengthened its innovation ecosystem, positioning CUHK as a key driver in addressing global challenges through research, collaboration, and technology commercialization.

LEARN MORE

US DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS (DOE OTT)

Jay D. Keasling of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was named the 2025 OTC/NAI Innovator of the Year, recognizing his global leadership in synthetic biology and biomanufacturing. His research focuses on engineering microbes to produce sustainable fuels, chemicals, and materials, with applications ranging from aviation fuels to biodegradable plastics. With more than 40 patents and applications, his work has enabled the creation of complex, high-value molecules that were previously difficult or impossible to produce.

Keasling's impact extends beyond the lab through the launch of 12 startups, which have collectively raised over $2.3 billion, created more than 1,500 U.S. jobs, and brought innovative products to market worldwide. He has also played a key role in fostering entrepreneurship within the national lab system, mentoring researchers and supporting commercialization efforts that strengthen U.S. innovation and energy resilience.

LEARN MORE

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Miami University's 2025 partnership with Cleveland Clinic marks a major step in advancing quantum computing education and strengthening Ohio's position in the field. The collaboration introduced the state's first Bachelor of Science in Quantum Computing—focused on software—and secured $7 million in state funding to build a workforce pipeline and support a new quantum research and commercialization institute. The partnership also expanded healthcare education with a new state-of-the-art facility and hands-on research opportunities for students.

Beyond quantum computing, Miami has deepened collaborations with regional healthcare partners, including NEOMED and The Christ Hospital Health Network, to create pathways into medical careers. Initiatives like an early assurance program for medical school and a new accelerated nursing program aim to strengthen Ohio's healthcare workforce while providing students with practical, career-ready training.

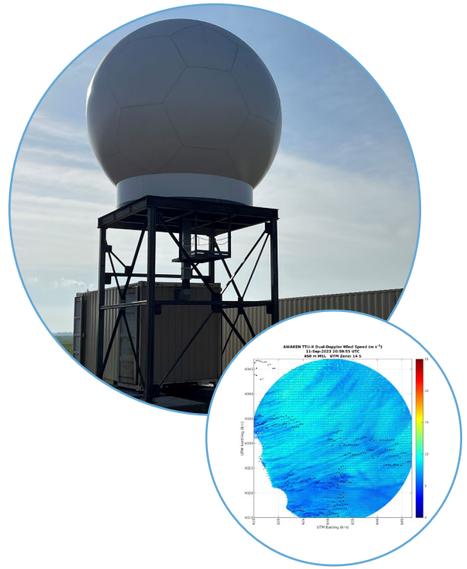
LEARN MORE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Texas Tech University (TTU) highlighted its continued commitment to innovation through the National Academy of Inventors in 2025, notably recognizing Dr. John Schroeder as a newly elected NAI Fellow. A leader in atmospheric science and director of the National Wind Institute, Schroeder has driven major advancements in hurricane research and wind measurement technologies, including the development of mobile instrument systems that capture critical data during severe weather events.

His work has also translated into real-world impact through SmartWind Technologies, a company built on TTU intellectual property that delivers advanced atmospheric measurement and analytics for the renewable energy sector. Supported by a $24 million state investment to expand weather monitoring infrastructure, TTU's efforts demonstrate how research, commercialization, and public investment can work together to improve weather intelligence, strengthen energy systems, and enhance community resilience.

LEARN MORE



DR. KEVIN J. TRACEY

THE FEINSTEIN INSTITUTES

In May 2025, Northwell Health opened the Center for Bioelectronic Medicine, translating decades of pioneering research at The Feinstein Institutes into patient care. Bioelectronic medicine uses technology to modulate the body's electrical signals and biological processes to treat disease, offering alternatives to traditional pharmaceuticals. Led by Dr. Kevin J. Tracey, a founder of the field, the Center was the first to implant patients with SetPoint Medical's FDA-approved vagus nerve stimulation device for rheumatoid arthritis, providing a treatment with fewer side effects than conventional drugs.

The Center also offers access to clinical trials, specialized consultations, and care navigation, with plans to expand bioelectronic therapies as new FDA approvals emerge. This initiative represents a major step in bringing cutting-edge, non-pharmaceutical treatments from research to real-world application, improving care for patients with chronic and complex conditions.

LEARN MORE

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

In 2025, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) showcased its leadership in innovation and intellectual property, registering 70 patents globally, including 57 with the USPTO. Among these innovations, the advanced Metal–CO_2 Battery Cell stands out, converting carbon dioxide into electrical energy and supporting sustainability and decarbonization efforts. UAEU's global impact was further recognized with Prof. Ali Al Marzouqi's election as a National Academy of Inventors Fellow.

UAEU also strengthened international collaboration and knowledge exchange through events like the International Conference on Creativity and Innovation (ICCI 2025), bringing together inventors, academics, policymakers, and industry experts to explore AI, digital transformation, and sustainable development. These accomplishments reflect UAEU's comprehensive approach to advancing innovation, fostering intellectual property ecosystems, and translating research into impactful, real-world solutions.

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UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

In 2025, the University of California, Riverside (UCR) continued advancing innovation through collaboration among faculty, industry, and regional partners. UCR's Office of Technology Partnerships (OTP) supported 126 inventors across disciplines, managing invention disclosures, patent filings, and licensing activity. Key innovations included research in life sciences, agriculture, clean energy, medical technologies, and environmental solutions, with several projects progressing toward commercialization through the Proof of Concept program.

UCR also drove economic development through six new license agreements, startup engagement, and investor-readiness initiatives. Highlighting its entrepreneurial ecosystem, the university hosted the third annual SoCal OASIS® Pitch Challenge and Technology Showcase, connecting startups with funding and industry partners. In June, UCR broke ground on the $68 million SoCal $OASIS_2$ Park, a 39,000-square-foot hub designed to support applied research, startup growth, and industry collaboration, further solidifying its role in regional innovation.

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UNIVERSITY of CENTRAL FLORIDA

University of Central Florida (UCF) researchers, in collaboration with World Precision Instruments (WPI), have developed TEER-on-a-Chip, an advanced sensing technology for early disease detection. Built on organ-on-a-chip platforms lined with human cells, the technology measures transepithelial electrical resistance (TEER) to monitor cell barrier integrity in real time. This noninvasive approach allows researchers and clinicians to detect early signs of tissue damage or disease in organs such as the lungs, intestines, and brain, offering a tool for more precise and personalized healthcare.

Funded through WPI and the NSF-supported MIST Center, the project leverages rapid prototyping and chip-style manufacturing to create an affordable, adaptable system for laboratories. Developed in UCF's NanoBioSensors and Systems lab and tested with support from the NanoScience Technology Center, the technology exemplifies rapid translation from academic research to practical, industrial applications.

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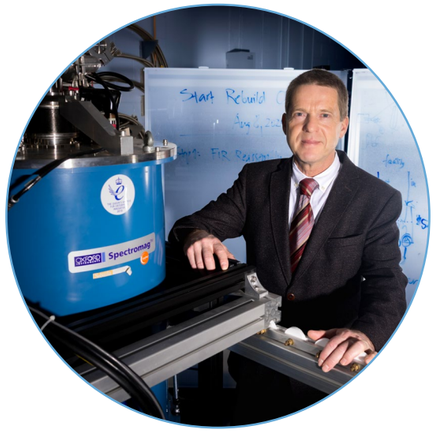
UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



MATHIAS SCHUBERT

Mathias Schubert of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was elected a National Academy of Inventors Fellow in recognition of his pioneering work in optical ellipsometry. Over two decades, Schubert has developed innovative methods for characterizing materials across broad spectral ranges, enabling advances in semiconductors, optics, displays, and manufacturing process monitoring. His research has produced numerous inventions, including discoveries in the optical Hall effect, interface polarization coupling, and ellipsometric instrumentation.

Schubert's work continues to push boundaries through international collaborations, such as identifying new ultra-light band gap semiconductors for high-power applications in AI and data centers. Known for his curiosity-driven approach, he focuses on exploring emerging challenges and discoveries rather than tallying patents or publications, emphasizing innovation through exploration and problem-solving.

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UNIVERSITY *of* SOUTH FLORIDA

In 2025, the University of South Florida (USF) demonstrated leadership in innovation across medicine, engineering, AI, and community impact. Highlights include Dr. Nicholas J. Panetta performing the nation's first fully robotic lymphovenous bypass using FDA-cleared NanoWrist® instruments, and USF faculty earning national recognition with multiple appointments as National Academy of Inventors Fellows and Senior Members. Federal support, including a $5 million NSF Convergence Accelerator award, propelled advances in wastewater treatment, AI-driven healthcare tools, and electroporation-based cancer therapies through the university spinout LifePulse Bioscience.

USF also achieved world-first medical milestones, including a bloodless heart-liver transplant, and developed engineering and AI solutions for diverse applications, from military field equipment to pediatric PTSD diagnosis. Beyond research, USF fostered statewide innovation through programs like Invention Convention Worldwide and TIPSTR, a human trafficking data repository, while three faculty members were inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, reflecting the university's broad societal impact.

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UNIVERSITY *of* WYOMING

In 2025, the University of Wyoming (UW) strengthened its focus on translational research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, leveraging programs like the NSF-funded Accelerating Research Translation (ART) award and investments in the Technology Transfer Office and Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Through initiatives such as the STAR program, ART Ambassadors, and student-focused commercialization training, UW funded 11 projects, launched two startups, and established seven industry collaborations, fostering a culture of research-to-market translation.

UW also expanded venture support through the Venture Capital Club, the John P. Ellbogen $50K Entrepreneurship Competition, and the IMPACT 307 startup program, producing ventures like Cowboy Country Milling and Carbonado Technology. Efforts to grow Wyoming's innovation ecosystem, including Wyo BizLink, have complemented UW's statewide impact, which was recognized with the Innovation & Economic Prosperity designation. The university's research enterprise also saw substantial growth, rising from $120 million in external awards in 2023 to $221 million in 2025, further fueling innovation and commercialization activities.

LEARN MORE

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTERS *of our* ORGANIZATION

A pivotal player in strengthening the innovation community, Chapters of the National Academy of Inventors are a tool to bring about the visions for innovation of NAI Member Institutions. With access to all programs, publications, and educational materials NAI offers, Chapters are extremely versatile and can be tailored to Member Institutions' goals and interests.

Through facilitating collaboration among students, encouraging and engaging members of the greater NAI community, and celebrating achievements of their own and other NAI Chapters, the 50+ official Chapters of NAI serve as hubs of connection within the greater innovation ecosystem. The NAI Chapter organization is unparalleled in its recognition, support, and celebration of inventors and innovation advocates across the institution.

WELCOME *2025* CHAPTERS

- Northern Illinois University
- University of Georgia
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- San Diego State University

Established in 2023, the National Academy of Inventors Chapter of Excellence Award recognizes Chapters that demonstrate outstanding commitment to the Academy's mission. This distinction highlights Chapters that excel in member engagement, collaboration with their host Member Institution, active involvement in the broader NAI and innovation communities, and meaningful support of their members and institutions.

Overall, the Chapter of Excellence exemplifies the qualities of an exemplary NAI chapter, and serves as an example for the NAI chapters of the future.

THE 2025 RECIPIENT

In 2025, the Chapter of Excellence Award recognized Tufts University for its outstanding contribution to the innovation community, and exemplary dedication to the support of its members and Member Institution.

CHAPTER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Across the National Academy of Inventors Member Institutions, their Chapters are hosting events that celebrate innovation, recognize outstanding inventors, and inspire collaboration.

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Innovator OF THE MONTH CELEBRATION

At East Carolina University, the Innovator of the Month Celebration highlighted campus innovation with a welcome video from NAI President Dr. Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI and awards for Dr. Robert Hughes, Dr. Stephanie Richards, Dr. Sinan Sousan, Dr. David Loy, Dr. Tom Herron, Doug Barnum, Dr. Emily Yeager, Taylor Cash, Anjalee Hou, Dr. Patrick Briley, Dr. Lok Pokhrel, and Dr. Tonya Zeczycki.

Keynote speaker Yonnie Butler of the NC Governor's Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation inspired discussions around collaboration and the future of innovation.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ

Chancellor's Innovation Impact Awards

The 2024 Chancellor's Innovation Impact Awards at UC Santa Cruz featured a panel on commercialization journeys with NAI Fellows and Senior Members. The event also celebrated the launch of the UC Santa Cruz NAI Chapter and recognized this year's award recipients, highlighting the university's commitment to translating research into real-world impact.

READ MORE

UNC CHARLOTTE

INAUGURAL

Invention of the Year Awards

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte hosted its inaugural Invention of the Year Awards, featuring keynote Andrei Iancu, HonNAI. UNC Charlotte was formally inducted as an NAI Member Institution, Dr. Ishwar Aggarwal was honored as the university's first NAI Fellow, and Dr. Susan Trammell was recognized for having placed third in the PMU-NAI International Patent Award. Seven researchers—Dr. Afonin, Dr. Amburghey, Dr. Boreman, Dr. Keen, Dr. Poler, Dr. Trammell, and Dr. Walter—were named NAI Senior Members, and Honorary Memberships were conferred on Chancellor Sharon Gaber and Vice Chancellor Dr. John Daniels. The evening also included a screening of From Campus to Commerce featuring Dr. Jennifer Pagán's AquiSense technology.

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NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Spring Meeting & Innovation Impact Awards

At Northeastern University, the NAI Chapter's Spring Meeting brought together faculty and students to explore emerging topics in technology and celebrate recipients of the 2025 Innovation Impact Awards.

These events highlight the vibrant innovation ecosystems across NAI Member Institutions and the Academy's commitment to recognizing inventors whose work is shaping the future.

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GREAT MINDS, GREATER COMMUNITY

What does it mean to be a National Academy of Inventors Institutional Member? It's about communicating ideas, learning new skills, sharing resources, and, most importantly, being part of a community.

With over 260 world-wide universities, non-profit, and governmental research organizations holding NAI institutional membership, we are proud to create a culture of innovation on a global scale.

Our Member Institutions, who represent 48 American states and 17 countries, are the pride of this organization. Through partnering with NAI, these Institutions signal to the community their commitment to innovation, recognize and showcase their faculty, staff and students through frequent celebration, and pioneer societal and economic progress.

GETTING INVOLVED

There is no other community as dedicated to innovation and progress as our Institutional Membership. Visit our website to discover the benefits of joining our network, including access to our educational materials, publications, and annual conference.

Already a member and want to celebrate your achievements with our community at large?
Submit your news to info@academyofinventors.org to be featured on NAI social media and in our newsletter.

FELLOWS STATISTICS

PROGRAMS

2,068 FELLOWS

OVER **300** prestigious universities, governmental & non-profit research institutes

OVER **$3.2 TRILLION** in revenue has been generated based on NAI Fellow discoveries

20,000+ LICENSED TECHNOLOGIES

1.2M+ JOBS

4,000 COMPANIES

FELLOWS HOLD MORE THAN **81,000** ISSUED U.S. PATENTS

NAI FELLOWS

About **170** PRESIDENTS AND SENIOR LEADERS OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES, GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-PROFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTES

About **777** MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE

About **60** INDUCTEES OF THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

About **57** NOBEL LAUREATES, AMONG OTHER AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

About **74** RECIPIENTS OF THE U.S. NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AND U.S. NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

Election to the National Academy of Inventors is more than a professional milestone; it is a recognition of those whose visionary work transcends the laboratory to solve the world's most pressing challenges. By bridging the gap between theoretical research and commercial viability, these pioneers serve as the bedrock of a thriving global economy and a more resilient society. This year, the Academy continues its tradition of honoring those who turn "what if" into "what is," welcoming a diverse new cohort of trailblazers whose collective ingenuity has already reshaped industries and improved countless lives.

FELLOWS PRESS RELEASE

NAI Announces 2024 Class of Fellows Tampa, FL – December 10th, 2024
The National Academy of Inventors (NAI) announced today the election of 170 exceptional inventors into the 2024 Class of Fellows. NAI Fellowship is the highest professional distinction awarded solely to inventors.

NAI Fellows are read into the Congressional Record every year in recognition of their accomplishments
Their names are displayed on plaques at the USPTO Headquarters in Alexandria, VA
NAI Fellows are presented their medals by a senior representative of the USPTO during the Fellows Induction Ceremony at the NAI Annual Conference

Rising Luminaries in their Field

In 2018, the National Academy of Inventors introduced the Senior Members program to recognize active scientists, faculty, or administrators of NAI affiliated organizations who make a profound impact on their community and society at large.

Members of the program have begun their journey in IP and commercialization. Composed of 715 individuals holding almost 7,000 patents, these early-stage innovators harbor an undeniable commitment to their field.

THE 2025 CLASS

With 162 innovators comprising the class, we are proud to state that the 2025 Senior Member class is NAI's largest class to date. Elected in February of 2025, this class represents 64 NAI member institutions and are named inventors in over 1,200 U.S. Patents. This year's senior member class was honored in Atlanta, Georgia, at the NAI Annual Conference.

To learn more about our Senior Member program and nomination process:

LEARN MORE

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

DEDICATION & SERVICE TO INNOVATION

The Honorary Member program of the National Academy of Inventors recognizes members of our community whose work at their institutions nurtures economic development. Through their research and revolution, these individuals demonstrate their dedication and service to the innovation ecosystem.

With a list that includes technology transfer officers, institutional administrators, industry leaders, and government officials, Honorary Members are celebrated for championing innovation in their own communities and beyond.

THE 2025 CLASS

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

THANK YOU

Whether you are a new or current member of our organization, a prospective member, supporter, or curious reader, thank you for reading our annual Activities Report and for engaging with the National Academy of Inventors. Without your support and involvement, our community wouldn't exist.

We look forward to seeing what emerges from the brilliant minds in our community in 2026.

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION

Hope to inspire and support the great inventors of the future? Explore our Legacy Gifting program and learn how your planned gift could leave an imprint on the world of innovation.

For more information or to partner with NAI in Legacy Gifting, please contact:

LegacyGiving@academyofinventors.org.

NAI CONTACT INFORMATION

3702 Spectrum Blvd., Suite 165
Tampa, FL 33612-9445 USA

info@academyofinventors.org
www.academyofinventors.org
813-355-9114