Fairbanks Regional Economic Development Partnership

The Fairbanks Regional Economic Partnership is sponsored by the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The Fairbanks Regional Economic Partnership (FREP) first met in February 2009. It was established to link the university’s emerging efforts on economic development of its research efforts to local government and development organization efforts. The three local mayors, a representative from the borough planning office, a representative each from the Chamber of Commerce and the Fairbanks Economic Development Corp meet every 4-6 weeks with Chancellor Rogers and other university representatives to review one area of UAF research that may have a commercial prospect. Other items deal with activities of both local government and the private sector relating to economic development that may involve the university. Chancellor Rogers chairs FREP

The following is a list of University presenters in each of the meeting through October 2010

Monday, March 23, 2009

Discussion of UAF Institute of Northern Engineering energy related activities especially the Biomass Project with a presentation by Dan White, Director, INE

Monday, April 20, 2009

Presentation by Prof. Tom Kuhn, IAB on his research (and how it relates to the work of Marvin Schulte, prospects of commercialization, needs and logistics of moving forward. Kuhn’s research focus on the antioxidant qualities of Alaska Blueberries. In his initial research he has also identified two unique elements that are not antioxidants but still function as anti-inflammatories

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Presentation by Prof. Kara Nance, Computer Sciences, on her research and work on computer security etc, her current work with Springboard, a program of the Juneau Economic Development Council, commercialization prospects, needs and logistics of moving forward toward fuller development of the possibilities
Monday June 22, 2009

Presentation by Dean Mark Herrmann, School of Management on the role of SOM in economic development focusing on several areas: (30 minutes + 10 min Q&A)

1. Student internship program with local and regional business;
2. Use of graduate students to assist UAF efforts (faculty or student initiated) in researcher commercialization;
3. SOM participation in a virtual accelerator or incubator if and when one is proposed and developed (20 minutes + 10 minute Q&A)

Monday September 28, 2009

Presentation by Kelly Drew, JAB, on her research and discussion of the research commercialization process with participation by teleconference with Judith Kelleher-Andersson, President and CSO, Neuronascent, Inc who has been working jointly with Kelly to commercialize the results of her research. (15 min. presentation 20-30 minutes of discussion);

Monday November 9th, 2009

Presentation by Ro Bailey from Poker Flat Research Range in the Geophysical Institute. The presentation will focus on the business opportunity offered by UAF expertise and assets relating to UAV/UAS (unmanned aerial vehicles/unmanned aerial systems). A UAF (Geo.Inst.) UAV was used recently for fire mapping purposes in the recent Crazy Mountain Complex wildfire near Fairbanks.

a. Size, range, control, payload and uses of a UAV
b. What else can they be used for – the 3 Ds (dumb, dirty and dangerous)
c. What is the business opportunity
d. Current partners
e. How are UAF/private sector partnerships an effective way to exploit this opportunity
f. Advantages of a UAV over aircraft or ground level observation
g. Regulatory environment with FAA
Monday December 7, 2009

A presentation by Rick Caulfield and faculty of TVC's (now CTC) programs on workforce development including:

a. statewide workforce trends in the coming decade
b. identified workforce needs in the interior and brief overview of providers
c. promising secondary-postsecondary partnerships
d. promising community partnerships
e. promising industry-university partnerships
f. key initiatives to advance workforce development

Monday February 1, 2010

A presentation by Milt Wilsie, retired director of the Alaska State Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, and scientist Tom Heinrichs, Associate Director of GINA, GI. Wilsie and Heinrichs have been working on a pilot project using remote sensing data to identify likely indicators of significant mineral deposits. If validated this technique could be used to survey and evaluate lands of mineral potential. The challenge is how to support and monetize this work.

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Monday March 8, 2010

A presentation by Pat Holloway on her work with peonies and how her research spurred the rapid development and substantial interest and commitment by Alaska growers. Holloway started cultivating peonies around the year 2000 and, as she progressed in her research a number of growers statewide began to look at the commercial possibilities. There are a number of serious growers. A retired UAF faculty is President of the statewide growers association.
Monday April 12, 2010

Discussion and presentation from Jim Collins on the focus and work of his graduate class in corporate strategies (Initial business analysis and planning). Jim has established 4 teams to examine 4 Fairbanks business opportunities, 2 inside the university; 2 outside the university. This “compressed” class meets from mid-March to the beginning of May.

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Presentation Tom Henrichs, Kevin Engle et al of Swatch Viewer. Swath Viewer provides easy access and manipulation of global imagery and mapping data in a lightweight Java applet. This lightweight applet enables users to rapidly zoom, pan and layer multiple images and mapping data together within a web browser without installing additional software.

Monday August 23, 2010

Presentation: “Fluids and Fibers: Using Marginal Materials to Construct Alaska’s Roads and Airports” by Billy Connor, P.E., Director, Alaska University Transportation Center. Connor discussed the function of commercial fluids and relatively simple and inexpensive bonding elements (fibers) in improving the durability of rural dirt and gravel roads. With relatively simple adaptation rural roads can be made to last longer and minimize dust control problems, a serious problem in high traffic areas.

Monday October 11, 2010

Presentation by Mike Harris on his research on the function of brown fat in infants as a likely indicator of a newborn infant’s susceptibility to SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Harris’ research involves the thermo graphic imaging of a large number of infants within the state, normalizing the data, and then expanding the effort to other venues in the other states. The anonymous collection of massive amounts of data would allow the investigator to identify those infants who suffered an SIDS crisis and how their brown fat function may have differed from other infants. This would allow clinicians to target and counsel the relatively small number of parents whose infant might have a much greater susceptibility to SIDS. Alaska in general and Native populations in particular suffer notably higher rates of SIDS than the general US population.

Prepared by Paul H. McCarthy, Economic Development UAF 10/04/2010
Fairbanks Regional Economic Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding
between the City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Fairbanks North Star Borough, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is between the City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Fairbanks North Star Borough, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, together referred to as “the Partners.” The Partners agree that they have a collective desire to leverage UAF assets, activities and knowledge for the purpose of creating a vibrant economy in the Interior Region and State of Alaska.

The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize the good faith intentions and understanding of the Partners, with respect to engaging UAF and its collective resources in being an active participant in economic development. The Partners agree that, when possible, they will each appoint the following number of individuals, not limited to board members, to serve on the Fairbanks Regional Economic Partnership:

- FNSB, Mayor
- City of Fairbanks, Mayor
- City of North Pole, Mayor
- UAF Economic Development Working Group
- FNSB Economic Development Commission
- Fairbanks Economic Development Corp.
- Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce
- Tanana Valley Campus, UAF

One (1)
One (1)
One (1)
Two (2)
One (1)
One (1)
One (1)
One (1)

The Chancellor will serve as chair and the UAF Office of Economic Development will staff the group.

This MOU shall not legally bind or obligate any of the signatory Partners and is intended as a collective good faith agreement to assist UAF in becoming an active participant in building the economy of Alaska.

Date 2/9/09

Jim Whitaker, Mayor
FNSB

Date Feb. 9 2009

Brian Rogers, Chancellor, UAF

Date 2.9.09

Terry Stie, Mayor
City of Fairbanks

Date 2-9-09

Doug Isaacson, Mayor
City of North Pole

Date 2/9/09

Jim Dodson, President and CEO
Fairbanks Economic Development Corp.

Date 2/9/09

Jack Wilbur, Chair
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Date 2/9/09

Buzz O'Toole, Director