

May 25, 2016

Speaker: Bruce A. Wright

Associate Vice President for Tech Parks Arizona

“Tech Park – Economic Development and Technical Innovation”

Speaker presented:

UA tech park is one of the nation’s premier research parks. It is a dynamic, interactive community where innovators and business leaders meet, where emerging companies and technology giants work side by side. He stated that tech parks are usually located where there is a strong influence of education, government and military presence. The tech park is a source for economic growth. Arizona Tech Parks Arizona is part of Tech Launch Arizona, an office of integrated teams creating an ecosystem of invention and commercialization.

UA tech park covers over 1,345 acres. It is 2 million square feet and has easy interstate access. It has \$2.3 billion regional impact and is one of the region’s largest employer centers. It houses more than 40 companies and there are approximately 6,000 employees. There are plans for tech park development which include residential, retail and hotel development. There are also plans for a hotel, county library, and YMCA. Future plans for UA Tech Park at the Bridges include technology companies, a science and technology high school, recreational facilities and retail and residential facilities. It is 65 acres and 2 million square feet. It is accessible from the freeway.

Key industry sectors in a tech park include: Intelligent Transportation System and Smart Vehicles, Defense and Security, Health and Biosciences, Advanced Energy, Arid land and Agriculture and Water, and Mining. He related the tech park to the 4 T’s – technology innovation center, talent with acquisition and retention, transportation, and trade that creates products that are used everywhere. He talked about the location and how it was a direct access to California, Texas and Mexico.

The park houses The Arizona Center for Innovation which is a business incubator. Over 100 companies have been started at the park. They have a 60% success rate. They assist start up companies with research and development, proof of concept, prototyping, testing, validation and demonstration and manufacturing.

Why UA tech parks? Connection to UA programs, faculty, students and facilities, introduction to industry and community partner and collaborators, assistance with business plans, assistance with marketing analysis and marketing plans, access to the local investment community, assistance with event planning, access to office, laboratory and production space, access to business incubation services from the Arizona Center for Innovation.

He ended with a question and answer period.