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THE CENTER FOR INNOVATION HOLDS DEDICATION CEREMONY

ARLINGTON, TX-The Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the University of Texas at Arlington are pleased to announce the formal dedication of the Center for Innovation at Arlington.

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and U.S. Rep. Joe Barton are scheduled to speak at the dedication ceremony, beginning at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at the Center, at 202 E. Border St.

"The Center represents the innovation eco-system necessary to serve as a catalyst for technology based economic development," stated Chamber President and CEO Wes Jurey.

"Historically, research leading to innovation resulting in commercializable discoveries has always been the driver of sustainable economic development, said Jurey. "The center is vital to Arlington's competitiveness in a globally integrated marketplace."

UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo said, "We believe this Center can have a transformative effect on North Texas, just like the Stanford Research Institute had on Silicon Valley."

The Center for Innovation is jointly managed by the Chamber and University, creating a collaborative framework to commercialize innovative research discoveries, provide access to venture capital, and attract the talent and know how- including research scientists and serial entrepreneurs – to North Texas.

The 3 story facility houses the Arlington Technology Incubator on the top floor; both the UT Arlington Office of Research Administration and the Venture Innovation Partnership are located on the second floor; and the newly established Center for Entrepreneurship is located on the first floor.

Supported by UT Arlington's College of Business, the Center for Entrepreneurship also includes the Small Business Development Center, the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center.

Kelsey Downum, UT Arlington's senior associate vice president for research said the University's major connection at the Center will continue to be research and providing assistance to move fledgling research firms into the marketplace.

"We also wanted companies with great ideas that are interested in the Center to know it is open to everyone in North Texas," Downum said.

Center Director Sergio Bento said the Center will also help with relocation efforts, business expansion and serve as an aid to the small businesses community.

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A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

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“We want people to know the Center can help with everything from venture capital to workforce development,” Bento said. “We’ll also provide networking and education to small-, minority- and women-owned businesses that need those resources.”

Earlier this year, Fred Patterson, a nationally known technology business expert with more than 40 years experience joined the Center team. Nationally known for his ability to help secure early stage venture capital for start up businesses, Fred has contracted with the university/chamber joint venture as a business coach to further germinate research/commercialization ideas and bring them to fruition.

“The Center for Innovation at Arlington, and its partners envision a region capable of developing its potential to foster research leading to commercialization, working together for the betterment of the north Texas region, with a focus on the 21st century innovation driven economy,” Jurey said.

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