Research – Unified vision for the future

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Since 2001, Discovery Park has added nearly $18 million in equipment and more than 100,000 square feet of laboratory space.

“We also have created 10 integrated centers for interdisciplinary research,” Rebar said. “Funds from Discovery Park which directly supported Purdue’s academic units total nearly $12 million during the past six years.”

The new centers include research in bioscience, energy, environment, e-Enterprise, entrepreneurship, learning, advanced manufacturing, cyber-infrastructure, nanotechnology and oncological sciences.

“We are working together with our academic units, corporate partners and the Purdue Research Parks to encourage and commercialize Purdue’s discoveries,” Rebar said.

Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette encompasses 725 acres with 52 buildings and 1.2 million square feet. The national average research park has 114 acres, six buildings and 314,000 square feet.

“We currently employ more than 2,700 people at our West Lafayette site,” Hornett said. “That is much greater than the national average of research parks, which have about 750 employees.”

Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette’s economic impact includes:

- 148 companies.
- 83 technology-based firms.
- $53,713 average annual salary.
- $90 million of invested venture capital.

Purdue Technology Centers and Research Parks also are based or in development in northeast Indiana, southeast Indiana and Indianapolis.

“Discovery Park receives research funding from federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health and private foundations such as the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Regenstrief Foundation, the Lilly Endowment and many others,” Rebar said. “Continuing to strengthen Purdue’s discipline-based research in the future as well as supporting the interdisciplinary activities of Discovery Park is a high priority.”

In the future, Purdue research activities can be expected to team the life sciences, chemistry and engineering, while exploiting areas of excellence in education, technology, liberal arts and management. Key interdisciplinary themes will include alternative energies such as biofuels, hydrogen and coal; preclinical studies such as nutrition, cancer and biomedical engineering; space exploration and engineering and defense issues such as homeland security and anti-terrorism.

Additional research facilities and buildings needed to support the continued growth of Purdue’s research and development include life science research laboratories, animal housing facilities, world-class conference center, facilities to support defense, energy and homeland security research, and flexible facility options to help Purdue respond to opportunity and need.

“We can do this through a unified vision, guiding principles and priorities used for all programs including the commercialization of technology,” Hornett said.