Industrial Partnerships

Warren R. DeVries, Division Director
Division of Design and Manufacturing Innovation
Kesh Narayanan, Office Head
Office of Industrial Innovation
for the
Engineering Advisory Committee
May 3-4, 2006
November Engineering Ad Com Recommendation

• “. . . that NSF/ENG pursue the idea of convening a group of industry thought leaders to look at ways to leverage industry funding/participation in research. “

• The essence of the recommendation and discussion with Dr. Bement:
  – Can ENG break some of the paradigms as to how matching funds are made?
  – Would NSF be supportive of a workshop or meeting with industrial thought leaders across the country to look at ways to collaborate and match government funding for research?
  – Dr. Bement encouraged this idea indicating ENG is at the front line for innovation and growing the economy.
    • He also encouraged the group to bring in state and local governments. Innovations ought to start at the state and local level.
    • NSF is focused on development of new concepts through frontier research and integrating education and research.
Industry Investment in ENG Based Programs and NSF Centers
Re-Engineering the Partnership: Summit of the University-Industry Congress

http://www7.nationalacademies.org/guirr/U_I_Summit_Agenda.pdf

- When and by Whom
  - April 25, 2006, at the National Academies,
  - National Council of University Research Administrators and Industrial Research Institute.
  - Top level involvement by: Jared Cohon, CMU President & Stan Williams, Senior HP Fellow and Bob Killoren, PSU Assoc. VP for Research; & Susan Butts, Dir. of External Technology for Dow.

- The “Guiding Principles for University-Industry Endeavors”
  - “… should support the mission of each partner. . . “
  - “… focus on fostering long term partnerships …”
  - “… focus on the benefits to each party … by streamlining negotiations to ensure timely conduct of the research and development of the research findings.”
Promoting Partnerships that Support Commercialization

• When and By Whom
  – Primary author is OII Ad Com member Albert Johnson of Corning

• What
  – Extensive discussion on ways to promote industry-university partnerships.
  – Policy documents that bear on this matter include the Bayh-Dole Act, and IRS procedure 97-14.
Universities and Businesses
Partnering for the Knowledge Society

• When and by Whom
  – Fifth Glion Colloquium held in Switzerland, June 2005.
  – Edited by Luc E. Weber and James J. Duderstadt, with contributions by 30 leaders in academe and industry in the US and EU.

• From the preface:
  – Consensus and differences in in perspective of participants from Europe and the US.
  – Emergence of a global, knowledge-driven economy has created an even greater dependence of society, business and industry on research universities for advanced education, R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship.
Advisory Committee Discussion

• In light of this recent activity, should the ENG Ad Com establish a working group to review and provide advice on actions?
• Are there ongoing activities we should engage in to respond to the ENG Ad Com recommendation?
• By engaging industrial thought leaders, could this be an opportunity to advance broader ENG goals, e.g., Overarching Engineering Innovation Goal or Public Understanding of Engineering Goal?