

NEWS RELEASE 22-FEB-2012

# Academic inventors critical to American innovation

National Academy of Inventors and US Patent and Trademark Office to work closely to promote American academic innovation

Business Announcement

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (USF HEALTH)

Tampa, Fla. (Feb.22, 2012) - In an article published in Volume 13 Number 3 of *Technology and Innovation, Proceedings of the National Academy of Inventors®*, Richard Maulsby, associate commissioner for innovation and development for the USPTO's Office of Innovation Development, advocates for promoting American academic innovation. In his paper titled "Promoting American Innovation," he writes that the USPTO will be "building on the past success of our outreach to independent and small entity inventors and to inventors associated with colleges, universities and research institutions."

"To this end," said Maulsby, "the Office of Innovation and Development will be establishing initiatives in the coming year tailored more specifically to academic institutions. We also want to collaborate with the National Academy of Inventors ([www.academyofinventors.org](http://www.academyofinventors.org)) on educational outreach regarding the value and importance of innovation and patents as well as recognition and support of academic inventors."

Maulsby noted that in June 2011, the USPTO announced a pro-bono pilot program to provide legal assistance to independent and small entity inventors. Maulsby also cites the close relationship he is establishing between his office and the NAI, as well as others in the private sector and government who are concerned with innovation.

"We look forward to participating in conferences and events sponsored by the NAI," said Maulsby. "The USPTO will develop an ongoing presence in this organization and in their publication, and we will include universities in our meetings and roundtables. This is clearly in our best interest because the academic world is a major source of technological innovation."

Maulsby said in his paper that the USPTO will collaborate with the NAI on educational outreach on the value of recognizing and supporting academic inventors.

"We are pleased to have a collaborative relationship with the USPTO's new Office of Innovative Development," said Dr. Paul R. Sanberg, senior associate vice president for research and innovation at the University of South Florida and president of the National Academy of Inventors. "Such support from associate commissioner Maulsby and his colleagues will likely further encourage more institutions to consider more seriously the benefits of faculty innovation."

###

The National Academy of Inventors® is a 501c3 organization comprised of U.S. and international universities and non-profit research institutes. It was founded in 2010 at the University of South Florida to recognize and encourage inventors with a patent issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of university technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society. Email [info@academyofinventors.org](mailto:info@academyofinventors.org); web [www.academyofinventors.org](http://www.academyofinventors.org)

The editorial offices of *Technology and Innovation* are located at the University of South Florida, Office of Research and Innovation, 3702 Spectrum Blvd., Suite 175, Tampa, Florida, 33612. Tel: 1-813-974-1347. Email [TJJournal@research.usf.edu](mailto:TJJournal@research.usf.edu)

News Release by Florida Science Communications [www.sciencescribe.net](http://www.sciencescribe.net)

## JOURNAL

Journal of Technology and Innovation

**Disclaimer:** AAAS and EurekAlert! are not responsible for the accuracy of news releases posted to EurekAlert! by contributing institutions or for the use of any information through the EurekAlert system.

### Media Contact

Judy Lowry

[info@academyofinventors.org](mailto:info@academyofinventors.org)

Office: 813-974-1347

---

---