UC: the tech transfer leader

The University of California is the most productive university in the nation in moving its ideas in the marketplace.

In fiscal year 2000, the UC system led U.S. colleges and universities in royalty income, according to a survey by the Association of University Technology Managers just released. The system also led in other key categories.

UC's patented ideas are used by private industry to develop drugs, medical devices, and agricultural and other products, which benefit everyone.

Licensing income for UC in 2000 totaled $261.5 million (which included funds from Genentech Inc. to settle a lawsuit), followed by Columbia University ($138.5 million), Dartmouth College ($68.4 million), Florida State University ($67.5 million), and Stanford University ($34.6 million).

The 2000 survey, which included responses from 142 U.S. colleges and universities, revealed:

• The UC system led in the number of licenses generating income, 781. The licenses, or options to license, give companies the right to use university inventions in return for royalty payments. Runner-up was the Washington Research Foundation, University of Washington (385), followed by Iowa State University (379).

• The UC system, with 26, was second to MIT (33) in the number of spin-off companies created. Third was the California Institute of Technology with 14 companies.

• The UC system expended the most in total research spending at $2.084 billion, followed by Johns Hopkins University ($1.033 billion) and MIT ($727.6 million).

• The UC system led in the number of patents issued (324), followed by MIT (152) and Cal Tech (108).

• UC led in the number of patent applications filed in 2000, 756, followed by Cal Tech (348) and Johns Hopkins (331).

UC takes lead in spurring economic growth

UC figures prominently in Gov. Gray Davis' 2003 budget proposal to spark economic growth in California. As a key piece of his statewide economic stimulus package, the governor's budget calls for funding several UC research centers a year earlier than previously scheduled. The investment in UC education and research that will occur in the completed buildings will be a catalyst for California's economic growth. The proposed $279 million in lease revenue bonds would cover seven projects: engineering and computer science buildings for classroom and research laboratories at the Riverside, San Diego and Santa Cruz campuses; an interdisciplinary laboratory building for UC Irvine's schools of biological and physical sciences; a UC Santa Barbara building for biological science instruction and research; UC Merced infrastructure development; and a veterinary medicine teaching and research building to upgrade facilities at UC Davis, the state's only vet medical school. For updates on the state budget: www.ucop.edu/news/budget.

UC faculty board issues SAT I discussion paper

UC faculty's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) for the first time has recommended a set of testing policies and principles that would enhance the depth, breadth and rigor of the tests used in UC admissions. It came in response to a proposal by UC President Richard C. Atkinson to end the use of the SAT I for freshman admission to UC. BOARS, the Academic Senate committee responsible for undergraduate admission matters at UC, called for replacing the SAT I with standards-based tests that show a demonstrable relationship to college prep classes in high school. BOARS' recommendations were submitted to the systemwide Academic Council and will undergo additional review that may take several months. Meanwhile, present UC admissions requirements remain in effect.

UC opens center in nation's capital

UC's Washington Academic Center, which lends the university's presence in the nation's capital, will hold its official opening April 23. Operating since last fall, the new center is home to more than 250 students and faculty from UC campuses as well as to the university's federal governmental relations staff and Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. The center is a instructional and research resource that provides UC undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty opportunities to research, intern, work and study in Washington. More info: www.ucdc.edu.

Undergraduate research shapes future

Outstanding undergraduate researchers from UC's eight undergraduate campuses will be acknowledged at UC Day in Sacramento March 18-19. The students are chosen through an annual undergraduate research contest covering a diverse range of disciplines in the arts, humanities and sciences. Their participation in UC Day underscores the many ways that UC's undergraduate research helps the state: It prepares students for careers in science and technology, the cornerstones of California's new economy, and provides opportunities for students to study firsthand the complex social issues facing California. Undergraduate research inspires a new generation of students to engage in the kind of high level graduate work that ensures continued innovation in California's leading industries. For more details about UC Day and the contest winners: www.ucday.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Through UC's Education Abroad Program, approximately 2,900 University of California students study in 140 institutions in 34 countries worldwide. The program offers full-year and short-term programs in a wide range of academic disciplines for sophomore through graduate students. Popular countries among students: Spain, Italy, United Kingdom/Ireland.
Education wins big at ballot box

The state’s community colleges received strong support from California voters March 5 when they approved 13 of 14 school bond measures on the ballot, providing $2.3 billion to the colleges to renovate and expand old buildings and construct new facilities. The victories underscored voters’ endorsement of the importance and role of the junior colleges across California communities. This was the first election under which most of the community college could take advantage of a law passed two years ago that reduced the percentage of votes needed to approve a bond measure to 55 from 67. The colleges, led by their foundations or civic groups, mounted aggressive campaigns for the bonds’ passage, which will raise $34 million to $356 million for individual colleges.

Governor appoints two new regents

Gov. Davis has made two appointments to the UC Board of Regents. Most recently, he nominated Richard C. Blum, 66, of San Francisco, who is chairman of Blum Capital Partners and co-chairman of NewBridge Capital, which together manages nearly $5 billion for investment companies in the U.S., Asia and Latin America. A UC Berkeley alum, Blum has been a longtime supporter of the campus’s Haas School of Business. In February, Davis nominated Haim Saban, 57, of Los Angeles, who is founder of Saban Entertainment and Fox Family Worldwide. In 1995, he merged Saban Entertainment with the Fox Kids Network, and two years later acquired the Fox Family Channel. He has a long history of philanthropic involvement with many educational organizations, including The Fulfillment Fund and Partners in Education, both college/career counseling and mentoring initiatives, and The Story Project, an after-school literacy program in downtown Los Angeles. The appointments require state Senate confirmation.

Biosecurity longtime research goal

Long before last fall’s anthrax attacks, scientists at two UC-managed national laboratories were developing a system for the federal energy department to rapidly detect the criminal use of biological agents. The results, by some 40 Los Alamos and Livermore researchers, formed part of the security network at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Since 1999, the researchers have worked to develop a system – the Biological Aerosol Sentry and Information System, or BASIS – capable of detecting airborne biological incidents for events such as political conventions, dignitary visits and major sporting events. BASIS collects and checks aerosols that are analyzed several times a day reducing the time for detecting a bioagent release from days or weeks to less than a day, – which could mean the difference between life and death.

MESA tapped as innovative educator

The California Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program has been named one of the five most innovative public programs in the country. A partnership between UC and Cal State University campuses, community colleges, public schools and the private sector, MESA supports more than 32,000 educationally disadvantaged students at pre-college, community college and university levels to excel in math and science and graduate with baccalaureates in math-based fields. MESA won the award following a nationwide competition sponsored by the Ford Foundation, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and Council for Excellence in Government. Eighty-five percent of MESA high school graduates go on to college. Learn more about MESA: www.mesa.ucop.edu.

New leaders sought for UCR, lab

UC has begun national searches to find a new chancellor for the Riverside campus and the director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Raymond L. Orbach, UC Riverside’s chancellor since 1992, resigned to head the Office of Science in the federal Department of Energy. An 18-member committee of UC regents, faculty, students, alumni and staff has been appointed by UC President Atkinson to advise him on the selection. While chancellor, Orbach has overseen UCR’s growth, now totaling more than 14,000 students. Take an online tour of UCR at www.ucr.edu/tour.

LLNL Director C. Bruce Tarter will leave his position later this year, after serving at the UC-managed lab for more than three decades – the past seven years as director. During Tarter’s tenure, LLNL has had many accomplishments – including its leadership role in supercomputing and the nation’s Stockpile Stewardship Program, contributions to the Human Genome Project and its partnership with the semiconductor industry on Extreme Ultraviolet Technology, the next-generation computer chip. To learn more about LLNL innovations and programs: www.llnl.gov.

UCLA administrator new outreach VP

Winston C. Doby a longtime administrator at UCLA, was named vice president for educational outreach this fall. Doby heads an extensive educational outreach effort designed to prepare larger numbers of students for admission to UC. The systemwide outreach office also coordinates UC’s efforts to work with K-12 educators and other segments of higher education across the state to improve teacher quality and student performance. For the past 20 years, he served as UCLA’s vice chancellor of student affairs and earned his undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees from UCLA. An active UCLA ambassador in Southern California, Doby co-founded the community-based Young Black Scholars Program, which has helped to prepare thousands of youngsters for college.