



UT's Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium Celebrates 20th Anniversary, May 18, 2016

[AUSTIN]: June 1, 2016 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE). IE began in UT's Graduate School in 1996. In 2006 IE became part of the newly created Division of Diversity & Engagement (DDCE), a vice presidential portfolio dedicated to integrating diversity into the core mission of the university and integrating community engagement into teaching, research and service. Since its inception IE—whose mission is to educate citizen scholars—has enrolled over 7,000 graduate and undergraduate students representing all of UT's colleges/schools, with over 60% being either the first in their family to attend college, members of underrepresented minority groups or coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Notes IE founder and director Dr. Rick Cherwitz, the Ernest S. Sharpe Centennial Professor in the Moody College of Communication, "We are proud of IE's national reputation, having been endorsed by dozens of university chancellors/presidents and leaders in higher education. We are honored to have received so many awards and to be the subject of hundreds of publications and news stories. But most of all, we are proud of the numerous accomplishment of our students who attribute much of their success to their IE experience."

“IE’s multidisciplinary approach,” suggests Texas Senator Judith Zaffirini, “offers students access to outstanding faculty and resources from throughout the UT community, enhances research and teaching, and improves the relationship between higher education and the rest of society. Whenever I speak to young people, I tell them that I don’t want them to be like me or to match my accomplishments; I want them to be significantly better and to surpass my accomplishments. IE provides students with an excellent foundation to achieve that goal.”

The Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium is housed within the Division of Diversity & Community Engagement (DDCE) and the Moody College of Communication.