

Oklahoma Innovations - OCAST's Official Newsletter

February 2015

FY15 PLANT FUNDING CYCLE IS NOW OPEN

OCAST's FY15 Basic Plant Science Research funding cycle is now open. Solicitations are available on the OCAST website at www.ok.gov/ocast/Funding/Solicitations/, and the program's application is now available online through OKGrants at <https://grants.ok.gov>.

For FY15, only basic plant science research projects will be accepted under the Plant Science program; applied plant science projects should be submitted under the OARS funding cycle, which is also now open.

Statements of intent are not required and applications are due Wednesday, April 15, at 5 pm. User manuals are available for download by clicking the My Training Materials link at the top right of the OKGrants screens.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Tessa North at 405-319-8410 or tessa.north@ocast.ok.gov.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING IN FY15 IS APPROACHING

The deadline for FY15 Oklahoma Applied Research Support and Intern Partnerships programs funding applications is 5 pm, March 4. All applications must be submitted online through [OKGrants](#), which requires a user to be registered prior to initiating an application.

If you are interested in applying and haven't yet done so, the administrator for your organization must register for access to [OKGrants](#) and then grant access to eligible PIs.

Only administrators should register for access through the New User link, and then only administrators may approve PI's access to the system.

After this cycle, the next opportunity for OARS and Intern funding is expected to open in the fall.

For assistance contact Tessa North, 405-319-8410 or tessa.north@ocast.ok.gov.

OKLAHOMA LIFE SCIENCE INTERN ACCEPTED AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S BIostatISTICS PH.D. PROGRAM



Caleb Lareau, a senior at the University of Tulsa, has recently been offered admission to pursue his doctorate in biostatistics at Harvard University, which is ranked as the single top program in this field by multiple independent sources. A graduate of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, Caleb has worked under Courtney Montgomery at Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and Brett McKinney at the University of Tulsa, where he has pursued the genetic basis of disease. Most recently, he has been supported through an OCAST Intern Partnerships project, where he was mentored by William Paiva, manager of the Oklahoma Life Science Fund.

As a double major in mathematics and biochemistry, Caleb has been exposed to a wide variety of computational and scientific problems throughout his undergraduate studies. However, his experiences through his academic coursework mirrored that of most other applicants, many of whom applied with Ivy League pedigrees. Caleb attributes his successful admission in large part due to the real world projects that he was able to undertake while working with Dr. Paiva supported through OCAST. In fact, during one of his faculty interviews, a tenured professor at Harvard was fascinated with his discussion of generalizing health solutions in rural communities using mobile technology.

“Even though I plan to study more of the quantitative nature of genetics and disease,” Caleb writes, “My experience in working with solutions to directly impact individual’s health concerns demonstrated a level of empathy and creativity that many other applicants did not have. My experience working with Dr. Paiva allowed me to demonstrate my desire to make my research affect the lives of others certainly differentiated me. Harvard focuses tremendous resources on getting results out of the lab and into the populous, and my demonstrated ability to do so allowed me to elbow out other applicants from illustrious schools.”

Caleb, the son of Chad and Julie Lareau of Edmond has lived in Oklahoma for all of his formative years. After graduating from Harvard with his Ph.D., he hopes to return to Oklahoma to advance recent biomedical research initiatives in Oklahoma.

CALL FOR OKLAHOMA BIOSCIENCE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Oklahoma BioScience Awards Dinner will be held April 8, 2015, at the Embassy Suites - Downtown Medical Center. The evening will honor outstanding contributions and accomplishments of individuals, companies and organizations that further the development in Oklahoma’s biosciences industry.

Nominations are now being accepted and are due by 3 pm, March 6, 2015. The following are award categories for this year.

Hall of Fame Leadership Award will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in the industry and has assisted in the creation and advancement of bioscience companies and the broader biosciences community over time.

Researcher Recognition Award will honor the efforts and commitment of a researcher who is advancing knowledge in their area of expertise and inspiring and promoting continued excellence in research.

Community Recognition Award will honor individuals, companies or institutions for significant contributions to Oklahoma's bioscience industry.

Innovation Recognition Award will honor an individual or company who has been responsible for creation of an innovative technology, product or service within the last three years which has led to a potential commercial application of relevance.

For more information contact Katelynn Henderson at khenderson@i2E.org.

I2E SEEKS FELLOWS PROGRAM APPLICANTS

i2E Inc. is offering 10-week paid fellowships this summer for Oklahoma college students at entrepreneurial companies in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas.

The i2E Fellows program is open to students at any Oklahoma college or university and Oklahoma residents who attend college at an out-of-state campus. Applications for the 2015 i2E Fellows program are being accepted through Friday, March 27. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible.

Fellows will earn \$6,000 while working full-time on projects designed specifically for their skill sets at i2E client companies in Oklahoma City or Tulsa or at i2E's offices in either city. The fellowships begin Monday, June 1, 2015.

The i2E Fellows program is offered in Oklahoma City with support from the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, the City of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the Presbyterian Health Foundation.

Support in Tulsa for the program is provided by the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology and the Oklahoma Business Roundtable.

More than \$200,000 has been paid to 40 students from campuses across the state who have served as previous i2E Fellows. Many have used the experience to launch their careers with entrepreneurial companies or with their own startup.

Information about the i2E Fellows program can be accessed at www.i2Efellows.com or by contacting Darcy Wilborn, i2E Fellows program director, at 405-813-2424 or email dwilborn@i2E.org.

OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE»

TODAY'S INNOVATIONS, TOMORROW'S JOBS

August 26, 2015 / Northeastern State University - Broken Arrow

SAVE THE DATE, OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Oklahoma Technology Showcase! This year the event will take place Wednesday, August 26 at Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow.

Eight high-tech Oklahoma companies will talk about their innovative products or services, as well as life lessons learned as they pursued their ambitions.

The event will run from approximately 8 am to 1 pm and will include special guests 1 Million Cups and TYPros/The Forge. More information will be coming soon – please visit www.ok.gov/ocast/OKTechShowcase.html for the latest updates.

OCAST PROGRAMS CALENDAR

OARS application deadline: March 4, 2015

FY15.2 Intern application deadline: March 4, 2015

Health application deadline: March 25, 2015

Plant Science application deadline: April 15, 2015

Health, OARS, FY15.2 Intern awards announced: June 16, 2015

OKLAHOMA INNOVATIONS RADIO SHOW

Rose State College recently opened the first [FabLab](#) at an Oklahoma state higher education institution. It is a “high-tech, self-discovery” facility for inventors, entrepreneurs, tinkerers and anyone looking to design, prototype and create.

[Listen to the show.](#)

[Dr. Robert Welliver](#), an infectious disease specialist with OU Physicians and chief of pediatric infectious diseases at the OU College of Medicine discusses how a little prevention can go a long

way toward keeping you and your family healthy.

[Listen to the show.](#)

[Charlesson](#) is developing innovative treatments for blinding eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. Along with their wholly-owned subsidiary, [EyeCRO](#), which provides preclinical ophthalmic contract research to the biotech and pharmaceutical community, they are working to develop the next generation of therapeutics.

[Listen to the show.](#)

The [2015 Creativity World Forum](#) will continue the tradition of celebrating ideas across multiple disciplines as creativity is linked to innovation, invention and entrepreneurial growth.

Approximately 1,500 creativity and innovation enthusiasts from across the world are expected to converge on Oklahoma City for the event. Attendees include entrepreneurs, educators, business leaders, students, community and cultural leaders and technology experts.

[Listen to the show.](#)

To hear more interviews on *Oklahoma Innovations* visit the [OCAST website](#) or listen weekly on:

Altus - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KOCU 90.1 FM

Ardmore - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KLCU 90.3 FM

Chickasha - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KCCU 100.1 FM

Clinton - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KYCU 89.1 FM

Lawton/Fort Sill - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KCCU 89.3 & 102.9 FM

Oklahoma City - Sunday at 5 p.m. - KTOK AM 1000

Tulsa - Sunday at 8 a.m. - KRMG AM 740/FM 102.3

Wichita Falls, TX - Saturday at 6 a.m. - KMFCU 88.7 FM