



# Center for Innovation and Commercialization Outreach

## Lamar Center for Innovation & Commercialization Outreach

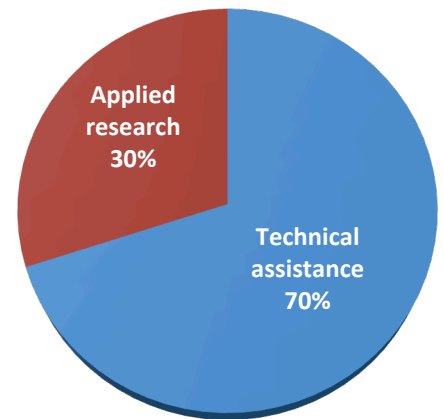
The focus of the Lamar University Center for Innovation & Commercialization Outreach (LCICO) is to serve eastern and southeastern Texas by supporting the establishment of new technology-based businesses, helping small technology-based businesses grow, and supporting efficiency improvements in mature industries.

The Center seeks to provide resources and connections that will enhance the economic development capacity of the region, which is suffering from the effects of two hurricanes and is largely dependent on natural resources.

### Activities

LCICO has a strong focus on identifying and nurturing technology-based research developed at the university and preparing it for the marketplace. It works with Lamar faculty and in university laboratories to identify university-based research technologies that have the capacity to become skeletal products, and it has identified 35 such technologies with commercial potential. In the wider

region, LCICO seeks to connect technology-based entrepreneurs and companies with the resources they need to succeed and grow – such as partnering with faculty researchers to pursue external R&D funding, connecting with the university’s materials characterization facility for joint projects, and connecting with out-of-region resources as needed. The Center hosts regular informal meetings of aspiring technology entrepreneurs



for networking. It supports expert faculty with technical assistance and also provides consulting to technology-based businesses. LCICO is collaborating with regional partners to develop a program that will support and train women entrepreneurs. Its annual Innovation Fair disseminates

### University

Lamar University

### Center Director

Paul Latiolais

### Center Location

College of Engineering

### Center since 2010

### Center Activities

- Technical assistance
- Entrepreneurship support
- Innovation and commercialization support
- Information dissemination

### Clients

- Entrepreneurs
- Small technology-related businesses
- Established industries
- Faculty

### Contact Information

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information about resources available to assist technology entrepreneurs and businesses. LCICO is also working on plans to construct the region's first technology incubator.

### Leveraging

To support the incubation and commercialization of university-based technologies, LCICO leverages a wide range of university resources for market analysis, prototyping, and other activities, including the Small Business Development Center, the

College of Business's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies, the Texas Center for Technology Incubation research centers, and other resources. LCICO actively seeks to build partnerships and leverage external resources by participating in many regional business, economic development, and technology-focused events and organizations, such as the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Texas Economic Development Foundation, and others. It also

connects entrepreneurs with resources outside the region, such as the Rice Alliance, the Houston Technology Center, and the Greater Houston Partnership.

## Success

### Connecting university research with local companies

LCICO believes in leveraging the strengths in the local economy while targeting adjacent markets for new growth. The region has a rich petroleum refining and processing history with a port and pipelines, but not much R&D activity. There is need for economic diversification into emerging clusters that are good fits with local assets and know-how, including energy engineering, advanced materials, and environmental sustainability. To support this aim, LCICO works within the university to identify

technology-based research and nurtures it with prototype assistance, market analyses, business plan development, venture capital contacts, and staffing assistance to bring it to the point of new company formation. The Center also hosts monthly Advancing New Technology (ANT) meetings for senior-level staff from local companies. At the meetings, the Center reports on recent university commercialization activities and profiles new university technologies of potential interest to the local companies. LCICO then seeks advice from the ANT advisory council on

approaches for moving these new technologies forward.

**By establishing regular, formal communication channels with local companies, LCICO is facilitating commercialization of university research that can advance economic diversification in the region.**