

Focus Area: Research and Development (Three-Rivers Technology Alliance)

Champion: Dr. Donald M. Boyd

Accomplishment Plans by 12/31/03

Increase R&D Capacity: Research expenditures from public-private sources have increased 20%.

- R&D capacity will be measured using metrics adapted from the Washington Technology Alliance's state technology index report.

Encourage Entrepreneurship: Equity investments are growing in local tech-based businesses; and the number of technologies licensed by companies in the Three Rivers area has increased.

- Continue to host seminars for entrepreneurs and help link them to potential investors.

Advocate an Education Base that supports R&D: An accredited 4-year undergraduate and Ph.D.-degree program in science and engineering exists in the Three Rivers area.

- Support ongoing changes in the role and autonomy of the campuses.

Key Accomplishments during the last workshop

Increase R&D Capacity

- Obtained copies of state technology index report, published by the Washington Technology Center, for use in refining the R&D Focus Group metrics.

Encourage Entrepreneurship

- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory became a sponsor of the Delta Angel Group in Spokane. This arrangement increases access to equity capital for local firms. About 60% of the deals that the Group has looked at so far are from the Tri-Cities.
- Battelle hired Bernie Hansen part-time as Entrepreneurial Programs Manager to provide more comprehensive entrepreneurial support to local technology-based firms. We also are talking with experienced serial entrepreneurs about becoming involved in Tri-Cities firms at the executive and board levels.
- PNNL has started a series of seminars by well-connected professional service providers from the Seattle area (mainly Preston Gates & Ellis) to enhance local entrepreneurship.
- PNNL was a "community partner" in helping organize the Early Stage Investment Forum in Seattle. No Tri-Cities companies attended this year, but there was one firm based on PNNL technology.

Education Base that supports R&D

- We hosted a delegation from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. This group was charged with "looking back" at the history of the branch campuses and is now charged with making recommendations for the role of the newer campuses. At the request of Dean Larry James, R&D Focus Group and PNNL representatives provided briefings on bio-products, community priorities, and systems biology research, in addition to a tour of EMSL.
- We have made contact with the Gordon Conference coordinating body and have requested they consider hosting a conference in the Tri-Cities during the academic year.