



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$35,000 GRANT PROMOTES LABORATORY INNOVATION AT NORTH FLORIDA INNOVATION LABS

Tallahassee, Florida – May 11, 2020 – North Florida Innovation Labs (NFIL) at Innovation Park of Tallahassee, an affiliate of the Leon County R&D Authority, announces that it is the recipient of a \$35,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of North Florida. This grant will allow the business incubator to provide equipment necessary for members to accelerate their product development in its wet lab. The lab is a one of a kind business incubator wet lab in the region available to early stage companies.

By providing members access to this equipment, NFIL will be able to support members who can use the lab to help grow their businesses without the need to buy this equipment on their own. Shared resources will include items like centrifuges, refrigerators and freezers, fume hood, glassware, vacuum lines and compressed air, water purification, and other essential equipment. Michael Tentnowski, Director of Entrepreneurship for Innovation Park, works closely with incubator members to provide strategic business assistance and ensure they have the tools needed to commercialize new technologies.

"This is very exciting news and highlights the importance of technology entrepreneurship throughout the Tallahassee region. The Knight Foundation is a tremendous supporter that recognizes the value of small business innovation in helping to endorse equitable, inclusive engagement within the local community", stated Michael Tentnowski.

NFIL was awarded this generous grant from the Knight Foundation to help address the short-term relief of COVID19. The wet lab facility at North Florida Innovation Labs is ideally suited for combating the evolving COVID-19 crisis by providing physical resources and business assistance information regarding economic downturns caused by the virus. The shared lab facility is available for biotech, medtech, and chemtech businesses to develop preventative measures, vaccines, drugs, and other solutions. These can be formed, tested, analyzed, and ultimately distributed to the marketplace to combat the virus.

"Ensuring that businesses have the tools they need to start, grow and succeed is a top priority of the North Florida Innovation Labs at Innovation Park," stated Kimberly A. Moore, Chair, Innovation Park, "We are committed to playing a vital role in supporting economic development in our community."

North Florida Innovation Labs is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help companies develop their ideas and grow their business in the Tallahassee/Big Bend region. For more information about North Florida Innovation Labs, please visit: <http://innovation-park.com/nfil/>.

About Innovation Park of Tallahassee

Innovation Park of Tallahassee is a unique community collaboration of FSU, FAMU, TCC, County, City and private sector leaders charged with driving innovation based economic development to

recruit, retain, and develop organizations which capitalize on the distinctive Innovation Park research assets focused on magnetics, aero-propulsion, materials, energy, health, and life sciences. The mission of Innovation Park is to work in affiliation with these partners to promote our region's research and development assets, and to foster the attraction, startup and growth of private innovative companies that create high wage jobs in Leon County. Learn more at www.innovation-park.com.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

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