



KTEC PIPELINE ANNOUNCES INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR JUDGES

*Judging Panel to include national and regional experts in
venture capital, technology and biosciences*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lenexa, Kan. (January 14, 2008) – The KTEC PIPELINE will cap off its inaugural year with an “Innovator of the Year” event on January 24, 2008. At this event, regional and national innovation and capital leaders will convene to determine the KTEC PIPELINE “Innovator of the Year” – a competition among the Charter Class (2007) - and then announce the 2008 class.

The judges announced for the “Innovator of the Year” competition are as follows: **Mr. Lance LeMay**, Founder and Managing Partner of October Capital, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri; **Ms. Jane Martin**, General Partner for Village Ventures, Bloomington, Indiana; **Mr. Oliver Valente**, former Senior Vice President of Product Management & Development for Sprint, Overland Park, Kansas; and **Mr. Thomas Wiggins**, Advisor Strategic and Corporate Relations for Stiefel Laboratories, Palo Alto, California. Mr. Wiggins is also Chairman of the Biotechnology Institute, Washington, D.C. and previously on the Biotechnology Industry Organization’s (BIO) Board of Directors.

“This KTEC PIPELINE Innovator of the Year” event is drawing a tremendous crowd of entrepreneurs, investors, innovators and academic and policy leaders who are very curious and excited to see how this Charter Class and program have evolved in such a short period of time,” said **Joni Cobb**, President of the KTEC PIPELINE. “It is very exciting to see each of them preparing so hard for this competition and the tough panel of judges who will be seeing them for the first time.”

The KTEC PIPELINE “Innovator of the Year” will have extended access to resources, experts and one on one attention over the next year.

“It is exciting to come home to Kansas and see the tremendous support given to our technology entrepreneurs through the KTEC PIPELINE,” said **Tom Wiggins**, Advisor Strategic and Corporate Relations, Stiefel Laboratories. “This is exactly the type of program promising entrepreneurs need here at home to ensure they have a great chance of success in very challenging fields. I look forward to seeing what they have accomplished in just one short year.”

“The KTEC PIPELINE has opened many doors for OsteoGeneX and me,” said **Debra Ellies**, Founding CEO and President of OsteoGeneX and KTEC PIPELINE Innovator. “I had nothing keeping me in Kansas, and I



was about to move to the coast when KTEC found me. The KTEC PIPELINE has given me a hands-on MBA course that is practical for OsteoGeneX. The KTEC PIPELINE is the best program for an entrepreneur.”

The “Innovator of the Year” will take place from 1 to 5:30 p.m. on January 24, 2008, at the Overland Park Sheraton. The winner will be announced in the evening at the “Innovator of the Year” dinner and 2008 KTEC PIPELINE class announcement.

For more information about the competition and evening event, contact the KTEC PIPELINE at 785.296.3363 or info@ktecpipeline.com.

KTEC PIPELINE Innovator of the Year Judges:

Mr. Lance LeMay

Founder and Managing Partner, October Capital, LLC

<http://www.ktecpipeline.com/mentors/lancelemay.htm>

Ms. Jane Martin

General Partner, Village Ventures

<http://www.ktecpipeline.com/mentors/janemartin.htm>

Mr. Thomas Wiggans

Advisor Strategic and Corporate Relations, Stiefel Laboratories

<http://www.ktecpipeline.com/mentors/tomwiggans.htm>

Mr. Oliver Valente

Former Senior Vice President of Product Management & Development, Sprint

<http://www.ktecpipeline.com/mentors/olivervalente.htm>

ABOUT THE KTEC PIPELINE

The KTEC PIPELINE is a first of its kind program in the United States created by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation’s (KTEC) in an effort to encourage technology-based economic growth in Kansas. The program works with the participants to enhance the creation and growth of high impact technology business in Kansas – with a special focus on ventures designed to scale and grow into large businesses with positive impact on our Kansas economy. Web site: <http://www.ktecpipeline.com>.

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