



KTEC PIPELINE ANNOUNCES 2008 INNOVATOR CLASS

*Entrepreneurial Fellowship Celebrating Successful
Charter Year*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lenexa, Kan. (January 24, 2008) – Today at its premiere “Innovator of the Year” event celebrating the graduation of its Charter Class, the KTEC PIPELINE announced its class for the 2008 year. This announcement took place as the culmination of a day of technology entrepreneurship events and announcements for the state of Kansas.

The second-year class of Innovators represents a cross-section of high potential technology and bioscience entrepreneurs from across the state of Kansas who hope to follow in the successful footsteps of the 2007 class and become leaders of the growing innovation economy in Kansas.

The 2008 Innovators are: **Carlos Antequera**, Prairie Village; **Alfred Botchway**, Stillwell; **Dr. Reggie Chandra**, Lenexa; **Todd Gentry**, Winfield; **Jeff Hargroves**, Overland Park; **Andrew Hoelscher**, Bushton; **Bruce Ianni**, Overland Park; **Dr. Dan Melton**, Kansas City; and **Jan Srack**, Salina.

“This year’s class reflects the variety of innovation and inspiration we see across the state of Kansas,” said **Joni Cobb**, President of the KTEC PIPELINE. “After an extremely competitive selection process, which produced triple the application pool in just one short year of the program, we have found a tremendously talented class to take us into 2008. I look forward to getting to work as soon as possible.”

Innovators will spend one year in the technology entrepreneurship fellowship. During this year, the Innovators will receive expert assistance with their businesses, cutting edge education, skill building and networking, as well as access to accomplished mentors. The KTEC PIPELINE will also connect the Innovators to investors with the capabilities of financing early stage technology companies. The year will culminate in an “Innovator of the Year” competition in which the Innovators must endure an intense assessment process of their respective business plans by an elite panel of judges.

The 2008 Innovators are matched throughout the program year with an accomplished Kansas mentor who represents the best in the technology industry and who has agreed to dedicate his or her time mentoring promising entrepreneurs.

“Kansas has an abundance of experienced entrepreneurs and other professionals who are ready and willing to assist growing technology entrepreneurs,” said **Tracy Taylor**, President and CEO of Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC). “The KTEC PIPELINE fits squarely within the KTEC strategy to involve as much private sector experience as possible in our work to foster Kansas’ innovation economy.”

“The 2008 Innovators are in for an exciting and challenging year in the PIPELINE,” said **Dr. William Rosenberg**, 2007 KTEC PIPELINE fellowship graduate. “I have a completely different skill at the end of this intense year – and confidence that the team around me for the past year will continue to assist me and my company as we face the challenges ahead. With the support of the KTEC PIPELINE and its network, it’s the ideal time to be an innovator and entrepreneur in Kansas.”

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 (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 the Kansas economy. The KTEC PIPELINE is developing the leaders for the Kansas innovation economy.

Web site: <http://www.ktecpipeline.com>

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