



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

LETTER OF COMMITMENT

April 5, 2011

Dr. Kathleen Hetherington
President
Howard Community College
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD, 21044

This letter affirms the commitment of the Office of Technology Transfer to work with Howard Community College and the other consortium members under a Department of Labor (DOL) grant for which you are applying. The USDA's Office of Technology Transfer has been delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to manage the intellectual property arising from USDA intramural research. The Partnership for Entrepreneurial Economic Recovery (PEER) Project is consistent with our technology transfer mission; we promote opportunities to have USDA innovations adopted by entrepreneurs and others for science-based economic development.

In support of the PEER project, the Office of Technology Transfer can provide some patents as subjects for the students in the entrepreneurship schools. I would also suggest that you consider utilizing the recently created Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership (ATIP) program to enhance efforts to encourage entrepreneurship and adoption of USDA innovations. Each member serves as a portal anchored to an ARS geographic Area. Members include the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO; Beltsville Area), Mississippi Technology Alliance (MTA; Mid South Area), Wisconsin Security Research Consortium (WSRC; Midwest Area), Georgia Research Alliance (GRA; South Atlantic Area), Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA; North Atlantic Area), Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA; Northern Plains Area), TechComm of the Center for Innovation at Arlington, TX (TechComm; Southern Plains Area), California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED; Pacific West Area), and the Center for Innovative Food Technologies, Toledo, OH (CIFT; an ATIP Associate with WSRC). A ninth Partner not linked to a geographic Area, representing a national organization, is the National Association of Seed and Venture Fund with members spanning 43 states.

We are in a pivotal time for securing our national prosperity through innovation and workforce development to meet these challenges. The USDA's Agricultural Research Service looks forward to the opportunity to work with you under the PEER program.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Brenner, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator for Technology Transfer



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