


[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Login](#)
National Collegiate Inventors
& Innovators Alliance


SCHEDULE



AI2V 1: Waltham, MA 8/1-4
 AI2V 2: Urbana, IL 9/9-12
 Southfield, MI - 9/28
 Kansas City, MO - 9/29
 St. Paul, MN - 10/6
 Fargo-Moorehead, MN - 10/12
 Orlando, FL - 11/2


[About Us](#)
[Events](#)
[Resources](#)
[Archives](#)
[Purchase the I2V
Participant Guide](#)
[Read our Weblog](#)
[Contact I2V](#)

MADE POSSIBLE BY:



Ewing Marion
KAUFFMAN
Foundation

ARCHIVES - 2004

To learn more about each speaker, simply click on their name.

[Mitchell Avery](#)
[Allyson Best](#)
[R. Barry Cannada](#)
[Walt Chambliss](#)
[Angeline Dvorak](#)
[Wendy Elliot](#)
[Pollyanne Frantz](#)
[Ike Fowler](#)
[Judith C. Giordan](#)
[Joe Graben](#)
[Richard Hadden](#)
[Joe Lichtenhan](#)
[Ken Malone](#)
[Lon Mathias](#)
[Rand Ray](#)
[Pamela Roach](#)
[Michael Roher](#)
[Joseph Steig](#)
[John Weathersby](#)
[Douglas Wicks](#)
[William Wilkins](#)
[John Williamson](#)
[Ed Yokley](#)

Mitchell Avery, Professor and Chair of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Mississippi

Dr. Mitch Avery is a professor and chair of the Medicinal Chemistry Department and a professor on joint appointment in the department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at the University of Mississippi. He also holds a position as research professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the National Center for Natural Products Research, both at the University of Mississippi. In addition, he serves as director of the Laboratory for Applied Drug Design and Synthesis.

Dr. Avery received a B.S. in chemistry from Oregon State University, earned the Ph.D. in organic chemistry from University of California, Santa Cruz, and completed postdocs at University of California, San Diego, and Oregon State University. He has received external funding from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health (NICHD, NIAID), World Health Organization, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Conrad (Contraceptive Research and Development), NaPro Biotherapeutics, Bethesda Pharmaceuticals, DARPA, and NSF. He has over 150 publications, is on the editorial board of Current Medicinal Chemistry, and on the Scientific Advisory Board of NaPro Biotherapeutics.

[Back to top](#)

Allyson Best, Senior Research and Development Analyst at the National Center for Natural Products Research

Allyson Best is a Sr. Research & Development Industry Analyst in the National Center for Natural Products, School of Pharmacy at The University of Mississippi. Ms. Best is responsible for market analysis and intellectual property management for technologies out of the School of Pharmacy. She received a B.S. in Marketing from Clemson University and a M.B.A. in Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management from The University of Mississippi.

[Back to top](#)

R. Barry Cannada, Member, Corporate Services Group, Butler Snow, PLLC; Attorneys

Barry Cannada is a member of the Corporate Services group and is former Chairman of the Business Department of the firm. He concentrates his practice in the areas of business planning and operations, business structure and capitalization, and mergers and acquisitions. In the client's guide of Chambers USA, America's Business Lawyers 2003-2004, Barry was ranked, along with Butler Snow, as the

outstanding lawyer and firm for Mississippi in the Corporate/M&A category.

Barry graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1977, magna cum laude, with a B.B.A. in Accounting and a minor in Economics. He received his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Mississippi in 1980 where he received the Farley Award for the highest scholastic average in his graduating class. After graduation, Barry clerked for the Honorable Judge Robert A. Ainsworth, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

[Back to top](#)

Walt Chambliss, Associate Director Business Development; Associate Director National Center for Natural Products Research

Dr. Chambliss is Associate Director in the National Center for Natural Products Research and Professor of Pharmaceutics in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Mississippi where he is responsible for late stage pharmaceutical development, intellectual property management and business development. He received a B.S. in Pharmacy, a M.S. in Pharmaceutics and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from the University of Mississippi. He worked for 17 years in pharmaceutical research and development at G.D. Searle, Bristol-Myers and Schering-Plough. His last position in the pharmaceutical industry was Vice President of R&D for Schering-Plough HealthCare Products. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Sciences, the Board of Directors for the Technology Resources Foundation and the Memphis Technology Council Executive Committee.

[Back to top](#)

Angeline Dvorak, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Angeline Godwin Dvorak presently serves as Vice President for Research and Economic Development at The University of Southern Mississippi, a Carnegie doctoral/research extensive university. Prior to her appointment to this, Dr. Dvorak was President and CEO of two Mississippi-based 501(c)(3) non-profits: Mississippi Technology Alliance, a science and technology-based economic development organization; and The Institute for Technology Development, a technology development company.

In that capacity, she founded Pointe Innovation Magazine, a science and technology publication and secured the publication of the first Mississippi Innovation Index. Her efforts involved leadership roles as chair of the Mississippi Telecommunications Center Commission, responsible for a \$17.5 million telecommunications conference center development; initiating the Technology@Home in Mississippi tour series; development and growth of Communications Information Technology Organization of Mississippi [CIT.ms]; two Governor or's Conferences on High Technology; and multiple cluster studies in partnership with United States Department of Labor and Mississippi Development Authority. During her tenure Dr. Dvorak made over 200 public presentations, conference papers, and keynote speeches.

She was appointed by Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove to co-chair Southern Technology Council with him. Until her appointment at USM, she served as a Commissioner for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Her work has involved extensive experience in economic development projects and civic and community engagements.

Before initiating her work in Mississippi, Dvorak served as President and CEO of Ashland Community College in Ashland, Kentucky. She concurrently held a tenured academic appointment as an associate professor at the University of Kentucky. Under her leadership, the College established a Division of Community, Workforce and Economic Development, including The Entrepreneur Center, and KinderCollege and Learning Academy, on-campus childcare and student enhanced learning programs.

Dr. Dvorak has worked extensively in economic development in a variety of capacities, including founding chair of Ashland Alliance (a multi-county and municipal joint chamber and economic development organization); charter officer (secretary-treasurer) of Northeast Kentucky Industrial Authority, an \$84 million development of East Park, a "smart" industrial park; and numerous regional and statewide economic development action teams in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia, Ohio and Mississippi.

Throughout her professional career, Dvorak has been involved in advanced computer and telecommunications technologies, first as a developer and later as a facilitator and project manager. Initiating her teaching career as a 19-year-old graduate assistant at University of Alabama, Dvorak has over twenty years of experiences as secondary, college, and university classroom teacher. She served as an administrator, television executive producer, and faculty member at Michigan State University.

She holds an undergraduate degree from Troy State University, a master's degree from University of Alabama, a second master's degree and Ph.D. from Florida State University, and a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

[Back to top](#)

Wendy Elliot, Director, Grayhead Associates

Ms Elliott is the founder and Managing Director of Advanced Technology Management, Inc as well as the Director of Grayhead Associates. She has more than 20 years of consulting, technology transfer, management, and product development and engineering experience.

In her consulting practice Ms Elliott has helped clients: develop and implement new venture business plans; create joint new product development opportunities; design and implement "voice of the

customer" studies; identify advanced manufacturing technologies and develop a program for failure analysis; train high-potential managers in the management of R&D and engineering.

Ms Elliott received a BS in Chemical Engineering, and a MS in Biomedical Engineering and Industrial Engineering from Northeastern University; an SM in the Management of Technology from the Sloan School of Management/School of Engineering at MIT. She was a Visiting Scholar at the 304 hospital in Beijing China and is presently a part time Visiting Scholar at MIT where her research focuses on the acquisition and commercialization of technology.

Pollyanne Frantz, Education and Outreach Coordinator School of Polymers and High Performance Materials at University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Frantz is the education and outreach coordinator in the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials at the University of Southern Mississippi. She received a B.A. in English and journalism from Franklin College of Indiana, and earned her M.L.S. (library science) and Ph.D. (higher education administration) degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She has experience as a newspaper journalist and photographer; a librarian in both academic and public libraries; a PeopleSoft HRMS software trainer through an initial implementation and subsequent version upgrades; and, as a grants administrator/information specialist in the field of external funding. She coordinates educational outreach activities for the K-20 community through the Polymer Science Learning Center (<http://pslc.ws>), including activities and events associated with the Entrepreneurial Medicinal and Polymer Science program (<http://www.pslc.ws/igert/>).

[Back to top](#)

Ike Fowler, Founder and CEO AbsoCom Corporation

Former New York businessman, Isaac Fowler, Jr. is the founder and CEO of AbsoCom Corporation. This Mississippi based Internet Service Provider, specializes in the unique deployment of broadband networks and advanced communication services within the rural sector. In this position, Mr. Fowler has been instrumental in the creation of a novel business model that synthesizes information technologies and social responsibility to develop a platform for economic development within the rural space.

Prior to establishing AbsoCom in 2002, Ike Fowler was a managing partner in a successful consulting business, and has spent the previous 35 years in various management positions in the telecommunications industry. He is well versed in telecommunications platforms and Information Technologies, knowledge that he acquired while at RCA Global Communications, AT&T Information Systems, and Locate Telecommunications. His marketing skills were honed while developing sales and marketing programs for start-up companies like: Interactive Telephone Company, one of the first pre-paid calling card platforms; and Locate Telecommunications a wireless competitive access provider which was later acquired by TCG.

[Back to top](#)

Judith C. Giordan, Co-Founder and Principal, Aileron Partners

Distinguished Fellow Business & Entrepreneurial Education; School of Polymers and High Performance Materials at the University of Southern Mississippi

Judith C. Giordan has held executive and leadership positions in R&D and operations spanning more than a 20-year career. Currently, Giordan is a Director at Technology Option capital, LLC - an ICMB OceanTomo affiliated company, co-founder of Aileron Partners, a strategic and human capital services provider, as well as Distinguished Fellow of Entrepreneurial and Business Education, School of Polymers and High Performance Materials at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Previous positions include vice president of International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc., global corporate director of research and development and vice president of worldwide research and development for Pepsi, vice president of research and development for Henkel Corporation and co-founder and managing partner of 1EXECStreet, a successful San Francisco-based executive search firm.

[Back to top](#)

Joe Graben, Director MS-FAST University of Southern Mississippi Office of Research and Economic Development

Mr. Graben works in the University of Southern Mississippi Office of Research and Economic Development serving as the Director of the Mississippi Federal & State Technology Partnership Program (MS-FAST). The purpose of MS-FAST is to assist Mississippi's small tech companies better compete in the federal SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) and STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) programs. Mr. Graben additionally serves as the Mississippi Affiliate for the NASA sponsored Southeast Regional Technology Transfer Center (SE-RTTC) operated by Georgia Tech.

His experience includes assisting companies in developing Phase I and II SBIR/STTR proposals and other proposals to federal R&D programs, licensing of NASA patents, business plan development, technology commercialization, identifying and obtaining venture capital funding, and obtaining technical assistance from federal labs. He holds a BBA in Management from Mississippi State University and an MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi.

[Back to top](#)

Richard Hadden, Director of Strategic Venture Development, University of Southern Mississippi

Richard I. Hadden, MD. Dr. Hadden is currently Director of Strategic Venture Development at USM. He is an investor in and currently sits on the board of directors of several technology companies. Prior to his current position at USM he was a senior research scientist and co-principal investigator at the National Center for Physical Acoustics, founding the Biomedical Acoustics Program to develop high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) technology for use in areas such as hemostasis, cancer therapy and gene therapy.

Recently Dr. Hadden served as founder, co-inventor, and President of a hemodialysis device development company that researched, developed, engineered, and licensed its technology to a publicly traded home healthcare provider. Dr. Hadden is also a co-founder of Phylogene (Nimes, France), a food authenticity technology company. He was an investor in and also served in 1999 as director of mergers and acquisition for a telecom services company in Paris, completing one merger.

In 1996 he co-founded and served as President and CEO, of Linguistic Technologies, Inc. (LTI), a medical speech recognition startup sold in January 2000. Prior to LTI, Dr. Hadden served as VP of investor relations and financing at AetherWorks Corporation, developing mobile computing solutions, and sold in 1995 to Digi International.

He has a diverse technical background in physics, scientific programming, and medicine. He received his BS degree in non-Euclidean geometries and physics at Vanderbilt University, and an MD degree at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

[Back to top](#)

Joe Lichtenhan, President and CEO Hybrid Plastics

Joseph D. Lichtenhan, Ph.D. Co-founder of Hybrid Plastics and serves as President, and Chief Executive Officer. Hybrid Plastics operates a chemistry and sales support facility in Fountain Valley, CA while polymer support and development, bulk production, and corporate headquarters are located in Hattiesburg, MS.

Dr. Lichtenhan is a pioneer and world authority in the field of Nanostructured® Chemicals. His insights into their applications launched the company and its four lines of POSS® nanobuilding block products. Prior to starting Hybrid Plastics, he served for seven years as a Technical and Business Area Director for the Polymeric Component Applications Program at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

He received his BS from Kansas State University and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine. His entrepreneurial activities started at the age twelve and he has actively participated in a number of sole-proprietorships. He currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Advanced Technology Program at the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology.

[Back to top](#)

Ken Malone, COO Gulf Coast Campus, USM, Chair of Economic Development

Dr. Ken Malone is currently Chair of the Department of Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer of the Gulf Coast Campus at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to joining Southern Miss, Malone worked for several large chemical companies in roles including process chemist, applications manager, market manager, business manager, finance and planning director resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars in new technology brought to market. Malone has a PhD in Polymer Science and BS in Biochemistry.

[Back to top](#)

Lon Mathias, Professor at the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials at the University of Southern Mississippi

Director of Entrepreneurial Medicinal and Polymer Science

Professor Mathias has been teaching and doing research in polymer science for over 25 years. He has developed new courses in polymer science and related areas that are taught on-campus at undergraduate and graduate levels and off-campus as short-courses. He has published over 300 papers, received over 20 patents and advised dozens of MS and PhD students toward successful careers.

Education activities also include multimedia material and books aimed at all levels. Workshops for K-12 teachers and college faculty are offered annually along with a summer program for undergraduates and teachers and an annual conference for undergraduate researchers to present and interact (www.pslc.ws/inspire). Research areas range from traditional polymer synthesis and characterization to biomaterials and bio-based monomers and polymers.

He is director of the NSF-funded interdisciplinary graduate IGERT program providing students with education and training at the entrepreneurial interface between polymers and medicine.

[Back to top](#)

Rand Ray, Vice President and Operations Manager CapSources

Mr. Ray joined the CapSources' team in 2001 and currently serves as its Vice President and Operations Manager. He is responsible for evaluating and managing the portfolio investments of the CapSource Fund, L.P. and the CapSources 2000 Fund, L.P. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of several portfolio companies including On-Site Fuel Services, Inc. and Kiko Foods, Inc.

Prior to joining CapSources, he managed the Jackson, MS office for a Baton Rouge based Certified Capital Company focused on debt and equity financing for small businesses. Other prior experiences include portfolio management, financial analysis, business development and corporate planning in various industries including telecommunications, banking and government.

In addition to his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Mississippi, Mr. Ray also graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mississippi College with a Masters of Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Venture Capital Institute.

[Back to top](#)

Pamela Roach

Pamela Roach provides critical advice to clients making strategic product and market decisions. She led Fortune 100 business segments in global marketplaces and delivered top and bottom line growth before co-founding BREAKTHROUGH MARKETING TECHNOLOGY.

Her marketing and sales experience is broad; it includes the successful development, launch, and growth of numerous textile and chemical business offerings. She has managed multi-million dollar advertising, merchandising, and promotions budgets.

She championed a winning team in the Six Sigma Plus in corporate competition utilizing statistical tools for identification of new product features and pricing as well as qualitative market research tools.

[Back to top](#)

Michael Roher

Prior to founding Roher Capital Group in 1998, Michael Roher was the president and founder of Center Street Capital Partners (CSCP), a \$110 million private equity firm based in Little Rock, Arkansas. CSCP served as a holding company for various interests in the distribution, manufacturing and marketing industries. At its height, CSCP companies generated \$500 million of revenues and employed over 1,500 workers. In his position, Mr. Roher was responsible for the day-to-day management of the business and all acquisitions and private investments made by CSCP worldwide.

Prior to founding CSCP, he served as Director of Fixed Income Corporate Finance for Stephens Inc., one of the largest privately owned investment banks in the U.S., where he worked principally with closely held and family-owned companies. Mr. Roher was responsible for originating, structuring, and raising private equity and debt capital for the firm's corporate clients, as well as originating new acquisition opportunities for the multi-billion dollar Stephens family portfolio. He was also responsible for advising on leveraged buyouts and acquisitions conducted by the firm's clients.

Before joining Stephens Inc. in 1989, Mr. Roher served as Vice President in the Corporate Finance division of Citicorp Investment Bank in New York City where he was responsible for new corporate finance business. Mr. Roher worked at Salomon Brothers Inc. in New York City prior to that, as an Associate in the Corporate Finance Department responsible for new corporate finance business as well as financial analysis and rating agency advisory services.

Mr. Roher is a graduate of New York University (BS in Finance) and the NYU Stern School of Business (MBA). With over 22 years of private equity investing and investment banking experience, Michael Roher has been directly involved in the successful execution of a variety of acquisitions, divestitures, and equity and debt financings aggregating over \$11 billion in value.

[Back to top](#)

Joseph Steig, Business Development Consultant to the NCIIA, Innovation Path Inc.

Joseph Steig manages the Invention to Venture program for the NCIIA. He has a background in finance and strategic planning and has worked with equity-backed technology companies in a diverse range of industries, including agriculture, environmental technologies, outdoor recreation products, and software companies. In addition, he has extensive technology economic development consulting experience.

Joseph also maintains a consulting practice, Innovation Path Inc., working on business and organizational development strategy with technology companies, economic development non-profits, and educational institutions. In this capacity he manages a Massachusetts-based angel investor group, River Valley Investors. Joseph has a BA from Hampshire College.

[Back to top](#)

John Weathersby, Director Open Source Software Institute

John Weathersby is the founder, chairman and executive director of the Open Source Software Institute a U.S.-based non profit organization dedicated to the development and implementation of open-source software solutions within the United States Federal, state and municipal governments and academic institutions.

As the Director of OSSSI, Weathersby serves as an adviser for open-source technologies to the National Technology Alliance, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps and to other agencies within the U.S. Department of Defense. He is currently a member of the International Advisory Panel for Linux World Magazine, LinuxWorld.com and the Linux Desktop Consortium and has served on the business advisory board for Digikata, LLC, a Pomona, California-based corporation that has received a Phase-One U.S. Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grant for the development of open-source applications for use in pre-kindergarten to post secondary education systems.

As an entrepreneur, Weathersby has been actively involved in business development with open-source software since 1998 when he was a founding partner of SAIR Linux and GNU Certification, an industry leading open-source courseware development and certification effort. Weathersby was also the founder of the Open Source Development Group, Inc. an IT training and development company that provided customized open-source training programs and consulting services to governmental, academic and industry clients.

[Visit website.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Douglas Wicks, Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation Professor and Chair, School of Polymers and High Performance Materials, University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Douglas Wicks is the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation Professor and chair of the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials at the University of Southern Mississippi. He received a B.S. in chemistry from North Dakota State University, and earned the Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Wicks worked for Bayer Corp. for a number of years in various capacities such as senior research chemist, senior research scientist, and vice president of research, Coatings and Colorants Division, Bayer Corp. Dr. Wicks' current research interests are in the areas of coatings and high throughput screening. He has received external funding from the National Science Foundation, private industry and the Office of Naval Research.

[Back to top](#)

William Wilkins, Senior Legal Counsel, Mississippi Law Research Institute

Intellectual Property Attorney, Mississippi Institutes of Higher Learning

Will Wilkins is working at the University of Mississippi's Mississippi Law Research Institute as an attorney in the position of Senior Research Counsel. His specific area of work is intellectual property including patent, copyright, and trademark. The position was created to provide information, legal counsel, and assistance to Mississippi universities on the protection of intellectual property rights developed by Mississippi state universities through their faculty and staff.

Prior to taking this position, Will practiced law with a law firm in Jackson for over eight years. He graduated from the University of the South in 1988 and subsequently acquired his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1991. While in law school, he was the Symposium Editor of the Mississippi Law Journal and a member of the Moot Court Board. Will has been active in the Mississippi Bar's Intellectual Property Section as a member of the executive committee and is also a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

[Back to top](#)

John Williamson, Professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Mississippi.

Dr. Williamson is a professor of medicinal chemistry in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). He holds the position of research associate professor of the National Center for the Development of Natural Products at Ole Miss, and also serves as the director of the University of Mississippi Pharmacogenetics Facility of the Mississippi Functional Genomics Network.

Dr. Williamson has a B.S. in pharmacy from the University of Mississippi and a Ph.D. in medicinal and natural products chemistry from the University of Iowa. He completed a postdoc in evolutionary biology at Yale University. Dr. Williamson has received external funding from the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National Center for Research Resources, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the Centers for Disease Control.

[Back to top](#)

Ed Yokley

Ed Yokley received his B.S. in Chemistry from Xavier University in 1969, a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Indiana University in 1973, and a M.S. in Management from the Sloan School at MIT in 1983.

Ed has worked for Dow Chemical, Polaroid Corporation, Hoechst Celanese and Security Plastics, Inc. He has been a founder of two companies psiloQuest, Inc. and Spherical Dynamics, Inc. Ed has launched new products, managed sales and marketing organizations, and developed formal business strategies for several national, regional and global chemical businesses.

In technology, he has worked as a bench product and process researcher, process development manager and as founding VP for Operations and Product Development. Ed's patents have covered applications from antidepressant pharmaceuticals, to holography, to supercritical fluids and plasma technology for semiconductor manufacturing.

Ed is currently Executive Vice President of Spherical Dynamics, Inc. an Internet based individual assessment consulting firm for human resources and personal growth applications.

[Back to top](#)

[<<Back to workshop](#)

NCIIA • 100 Venture Way, Hadley MA 01035 • Tel: 1.413.587.2172 • Fax: 1.413.587.2175 • www.nciia.org •
info@invention2venture.org
© 2005 NCIIA All Rights Reserved.