



UEDA

University Economic Development Association

<https://universityeda.org/>

The **University Economic Development Association connects** our members—higher education institutions, private sector businesses, and economic development organizations—to resources that facilitate economic growth in their communities.

UEDA members represent **those on the cutting-edge of modern economic development**. Success in our modern economy is about innovation and entrepreneurship. It is about **fostering talent** in young people from preschool through life to embolden them to think and create outside the traditional academic or professional requirements. It is about **creating environments** that attract those people who want to make and do things in new ways and retains that talent to start the process over again in the next generation.

Never before have academia, the private sector, and economic stakeholders been so reliant on one another to create economic opportunity. **UEDA members work together to expand economic opportunity in their communities and regions by leveraging talent, innovation and place, and recognizing the interconnectedness of each of these elements.**

➤ **American Resilience & Equity Networks Initiative (ARENI)**

A partnership with the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Virginia Tech



AWARDS OF
EXCELLENCE

Awards of Excellence participants make-up a **prestigious group of global economic development innovators.**

As practitioners of economic engagement, this work is **building and innovating communities** across the globe.

These initiatives are **generating impacts** that are sustainable and provide growth opportunities for your region.

These programs **drive innovation** and work to **support** residents and regional economic ecosystems.

The Awards of Excellence are given in **recognition of outstanding economic development initiatives, research, or accomplishments** in the areas of **Talent, Innovation and Place.**

Awards of Excellence are presented in **six categories:**

Innovation

The Innovation category encompasses basic research; applied, translational, problem-oriented, and industry-contracted R&D; cooperative extension services; technology transfer; etc.

Innovation + Talent

This category recognizes projects that connect talent and innovation to foster business entrepreneurs, idea or product makers, and problem-solvers. Entrepreneurship education projects and experiential learning projects to connect students with entrepreneurs are just two examples of the types of projects included in this category.

Talent

The Talent category focuses on programs that teach people how to thrive in the 21st century Knowledge Economy. This category includes life-long learning (degree and non-degree programs), experiential education and discovery-based learning programs, active alignment of curricula to industry needs, etc.

Talent + Place

Talent + Place projects exemplify how putting the right people in the right environment will benefit the community and economy. Examples include K-12 school improvement partnerships; local government training institutes; higher education involvement in regional government, economic development organizations; and community and wellness projects/initiatives.

Place

The Place category recognizes the diverse ways in which higher education institutions contribute to the overall aesthetic and quality of life of their communities. Campuses and sites such as research parks are components of place-making, but the focus of this category is on the broader impact throughout the community or region.

Place + Innovation

Projects in this category connect innovation and place to create physical spaces that attract innovative talent to create a new knowledge community.

This space can be either or both:

1. A specific site, such as a university research and technology park, incubator, accelerator, etc.
2. A larger community, area, or region, such as an innovation district.

The Process

Throughout the Awards of Excellence process, nominations are **judged** on the **sustainability, replicability, originality, and impact** of their programs or initiatives.

- **Proposals** are submitted to the Awards of Excellence committee who choose the finalists.
- The **finalists then present their projects at the [UEDA Summit](#)**, where attendees choose category leaders.
- **Category leaders** announced at the Summit Awards Banquet.

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- presentation prepared by Dr. Ramesh and delivered by Julia Potter
 - 12 minutes to present
 - 5 minutes for Q&A
- Voting
- Awards of Excellence banquet
- Press release, social media, website
- Resource for a community of practice
- Leverage as recognized award from peers

Category Leader in Talent



CONGRATULATIONS!!!