



Building
Communities
of Innovation™

AURP  **2025**
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
NOV 11-14 • LAS VEGAS

Hosted by **UNLV** HARRY REID
RESEARCH &
TECHNOLOGY PARK

*Preliminary Agenda – Subject to Change
(As of 7.15.25)*

DRIVING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACROSS SECTORS

Get ready for an unforgettable experience as the Harry Reid Research and Technology Park and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas take center stage and host the 2025 AURP International Conference. As always, the conference is packed with exciting learning opportunities, from dynamic collaborative sessions and lively discussions to exclusive tours and more! Come experience a different side of Las Vegas this fall.

Why Attend? This high-impact program brings together thought leaders, economic developers, research park managers, and university and industry partners to unite and discuss the innovation of tomorrow. This is where the Community of Innovation comes to build our global network.

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

Durango Hotel, 6915 S Durango Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89113

Group Rate: \$249/Night plus \$40 Resort Fee <https://international.aurp.net/hotel>

Harry Reid International Airport, *approx. 15-minute drive to the hotel*

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 **REGISTRATION CHECK IN**
Durango Hotel

3:00 – 4:30 **COMMUNITIES OF INNOVATION 101:
MEET THE LEADER NETWORKING RECEPTION**
ADDITIONAL FEE
Chair: Kate Engel, Executive Director, Nebraska Innovation Campus

6:00 – 9:00 **AURP BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPONSOR APPRECIATION DINNER**
By Invitation Only

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7:30 – 8:30 **NEW MEMBER AND FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE BREAKFAST**
Durango Hotel

9:00 – 10:30 **LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE**
Durango Hotel
ADDITIONAL FEE – Transportation provided to Las Vegas Convention Center
Chair: Erin Koshut, Executive Director, Cummings Research Park

10:00 – 11:00 **TRANSPORTATION TO LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER**

ALL AFTERNOON SESSIONS HELD AT LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER

11:00 – 12:00 **GROUP LUNCHEON**

- 12:00 – 12:30 WELCOMING REMARKS**
PRESENTATION OF THE AURP INNOVATION AWARD NOMINEES
- Mayor Shelley Berkley, City of Las Vegas
 - Allison Madden, President, AURP; Chief Operating Officer & Corporate Secretary, University of South Florida Research Foundation
 - Zach Miles, JD, MBA, Interim Vice President for Economic Development, UNLV; Executive Director, UNLV Research Foundation
- 1:00 – 1:30 ICONS OF LAS VEGAS**
- Guy Martin, President, Martin-Harris Construction
 - Don Snyder, Immediate Past President, UNLV
 - Jan Jones Blackhurst, Executive Director, UNLV Black Fire Leadership Initiatives
 - Betsy Fretwell, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Las Vegas Economic Global Alliance
- 1:30 – 2:00 FUTURE OF INNOVATION DISTRICTS**
- Shani Coleman, Director of Community & Economic Development, Clark County Office of Community & Economic Development
 - Jared Luke, Senior Director of Government Affairs and Economic Development, City of North Las Vegas
 - Zach Miles, JD, MBA, Interim Vice President for Economic Development, UNLV; Executive Director, UNLV Research Foundation
- 2:00 – 2:30 FUTURE OF INNOVATION DISTRICTS**
- City of Henderson Economic Development Team
- 3:00 – 3:45 D.C. DOWNLOAD: WHAT'S COMING UP FOR YOUR CAMPUS**
- Leslee Gilbert, JD, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates
- 3:45 – 4:15 BIOTECHNOLOGY AS A NATIONAL SECURITY**
- Monique Mansoura, PhD, MBA, Global Health Security & Biotechnology, Strategic Advisor (*invited*)
- 4:15 – 4:45 THE NEW FRONTIER – LEVERAGING TEXAS HB112**
- Harold Strong, Executive Director, STAR Park, Texas State University
 - Larry Peterson, Executive Director, Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities
- 4:45 – 5:30 OPENING RECEPTION**
- 5:30 TRANSPORTATION TO DURANGO HOTEL**
- EVENING SPONSOR HOSPITALITIES & RECEPTIONS**
 All events hosted and organized by sponsors require approval by AURP

Thursday, November 13, 2025
ALL SESSIONS HELD AT LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER

- MORNING Breakfast on your own**
- 8:00 – 8:45 TRANSPORTATION TO LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER**
- 9:00 – 9:15 MORNING WELCOME**
- 9:15 – 10:30 MAIN STAGE PRESENTATIONS**
- Rapid Fire | Scaling University-Industry Partnerships Through Innovation**
- Zoë Gibson, Head of Ecosystems, Halo
- Rapid Fire | Research Park: The Tip of the Spear for Campus/Corporate Engagement**
- Allison Doyle, Associate Director, Iowa State University Research Park; Director of Corporate Engagement, Iowa State University
 - Stacy Dreyer, Associate Director of Corporate Engagement, Iowa State University Research Park



- Heather Bray, Corporate Engagement Specialist, Iowa State University Research Park

Rapid Fire | AI-Powered Corporate Engagement: Aligning Industry with Campus Strengths

- Chase Bonhag, MBA, CEO & Co-Founder, FirstIgnite

Main Stage | Master Planning: Fireside Chat

- Aaron Olver, Managing Director, University Research Park, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Erin Koshut, Immediate Past President, AURP; Executive Director, Cummings Research Park

11:00 – 11:30 CONCURRENT GENERAL SESSIONS

Funding & Resources Track | Power of Place: Leveraging University-Industry Partnerships through Co-Location and Core Facilities

- Merry Hunter Caudle, CEcD, Associate Director, Economic Development Office of Institute Relations, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Tracy Shickel, Associate Vice President, Corporate Engagement, University of Delaware
- Jeffery Smith, Director, Research Parks, Michigan State University Research Foundation

Programming Track | Quantum Computing: Why You Should Prepare for a Quantum-Inspired Future

- Laura Appenzeller, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Innovation, Research Park Executive Director, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- John Sawyer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance; Director, Strategic Research Initiatives, University of Maryland
- Zachary Yerushalmi, CEO and Regional Innovation Officer, Elevate Quantum Tech Hub
- (Moderator) Brian Darmody, Chief Strategy Officer, AURP

11:45 – 12:15 CONCURRENT GENERAL SESSIONS

Funding & Resources Track | Fueling Innovation Districts in Times of Change

- Amy Adams, Executive Director, Institute for Biohealth Innovation, George Mason University
- Thomas Flynn, CEcD, Economic Development Advisor, Prince William County Economic Development and Tourism
- Sarah Sheppard, Director, Office of Talent and Workforce, Division of Innovation and Growth, Maryland Department of Commerce
- (Moderator) Laura O'Blenis, President & CEO, Stiletto: Make A Point

Programming Track | Bridging the Valley of Death: Funding Strategies for Tech Transfer

- Bruce Hunter, JD, MBA, Chief innovation Officer, University of Utah
- Zach Miles, JD, MBA, Interim Vice President for Economic Development, UNLV; Executive Director, UNLV Research Foundation
- Katie Pettinger, MBA, Chief Innovation Officer, SWSIE / Arizona State University
- (Moderator) Maggie Bachenberg, Consultant, Franklin Advisory

12:15 – 1:30 GROUP LUNCHEON

1:30 – 2:00 CONCURRENT GENERAL SESSIONS

Funding & Resources Track | Implementing Research Security Best Practices in Research Parks, Innovation Districts and Hubs

- Allen Phelps, CPP, PCI, CISSP, CISA, Founder & CEO, IPTalons, Inc.

Programming Track | Research Parks Partnering with DOD and Intel Community: What You Need to Know

- Rod McSherry, Associate VP for Innovation and Economic Development, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Tom Sadowski, Executive Director, Maryland Economic Development Corporation
- Mark Sharpe, Executive Director, Montana State University Innovation Campus
- (Moderator) Brian Darmody, Chief Strategy Officer, AURP

2:15 – 2:45 CONCURRENT GENERAL SESSIONS



Funding & Resources Track | Real Estate Developments: Factors that Impact Project Feasibility

- David Tyndall, Founder & CEO, Collaborative Real Estate

Programming Track | The Bioscience Collaborative – An Innovative Approach to Building Biotech

- Len Jessup, Managing Director, Desert Forge Ventures
- Ray Liu, CEO & Co-Founder, Vena Vitals
- Jeffery Talbot, Vice President for Research, Roseman University of Health Sciences

3:15 – 3:45 CONCURRENT GENERAL SESSIONS

Funding & Resources Track | The Community-led Innovation Community: A Conversation with Three County Leaders

- Shani Coleman, Director of Community & Economic Development, Clark County Office of Community & Economic Development
- Amanda Clavijo, MPA, Assistant County Manager, Osceola County Government, Florida
- Neil Schneider, MPA, Director, Churchill Technology & Business Park Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, Louisiana
- Stephen Coulston, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Principal, Perkins&Will

Programming Track | What's Next? Reimagining and Reinventing in Real Time

- Randal Froebelius, Project Executive and Senior Advisor, MaRS Discovery District
- Greg King, Associate Vice President, Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Laura O'Brien, President & CEO, Stiletto: Make A Point
- Carol Stewart, Vice President, Tech Parks Arizona, University of Arizona

4:00 – 5:00 MAIN STAGE PRESENTATIONS

Rapid Fire | Upcoming Programming and Topics in 2026

- Vickie Palmer, CEO, AURP

Main Stage | The Blooper Reel

- Jordan Peterson, Chief Operations Officer, Collaborative Real Estate

5:15 – 6:00 AURP 29TH ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

6:00 – 6:15 CLOSING REMARKS

6:15 TRANSPORTATION TO DURANGO HOTEL

EVENING SPONSOR HOSPITALITIES & RECEPTIONS

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Friday, November 14, 2025

8:00 – 12:00 CLEAN TECH & BUILDING RESILIENCY CAUCUS

*Harry Reid Research and Technology Park
 ADDITIONAL FEE*

9:00 – 12:00 OPTIONAL TOURS

Transportation Provided

- **SWITCH DATACENTER**
- **KIRK KEKORIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

www.international.aurp.net