

President Gordon Gee on IE's 20th Anniversary

[Austin, TX]: 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of UT's Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) initiative. This letter to IE Director Rick Cherwitz was sent from President Gordon Gee congratulating IE on its anniversary. Gee, often called the dean of university presidents, has served as chief executive at several universities: Ohio State (twice), Colorado, Vanderbilt, Brown and West Virginia. Below Gee's letter is a video he made about IE during his tenure as President of Ohio State University, as well his assessment of IE's impact.



January 4

Dear Rick,

20 years of the Intellectual Entrepreneurship initiative is really quite remarkable. You have set a very high standard, my friend. Your wisdom is sustaining us today. Texas is fortunate to have you on its faculty, and we in higher education are fortunate to have your clear voice of leadership.

Gordon

Gee's video while at OSU:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW1TFV30ZXg>

Gee's assessment of IE's impact: "Serving as president/chancellor of five major research universities, I have witnessed firsthand numerous challenges to higher education and a wide array of programs implemented to meet those challenges. I do not exaggerate when I say that The University of Texas' Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) represents one of the best initiatives on education reform. As both a program and philosophy of education, IE has made significant changes to how we think about and deliver education-and it effectively accomplishes this in a manner preserving and bolstering the academic rigor of major research universities. Unlike more extreme calls for reform, IE does not seek to change the mission of research universities. Instead, IE has empowered thousands of students to discover their passion, systematically integrate relevant disciplinary knowledge, and put that knowledge to work for the betterment of themselves and society. Of special note is IE's documented record of increasing diversity at a time when we are searching for race neutral methods for doing so. I applaud IE's philosophy of education ("Discovery, Ownership, and Accountability"), believing it has the potential to shorten students' time to degree and improve the quality of their education in thoughtful ways. My hope is that IE will be imitated by others seeking new and innovative approaches to educating our nation's citizens."