

Austin American- Statesman

Rick Cherwitz, "University, Community Collaboration Is Critical," Austin American-Statesman, June 1, 2016

As a University of Texas faculty member and director of the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE), I applaud Mayor Steve Adler and President Gregory L. Fenves' op-ed in the Huffington Post on university-community collaboration! They truly understand that the most serious problems facing us in the 21st Century cannot be solved by any one academic discipline or sector of society. These challenges require the kind of synergy produced through intellectual entrepreneurship. As I have argued for many years, "Intellectual entrepreneurs understand that genuine collaboration between universities and the public is tantamount to more than increased 'access' to the academy's intellectual assets. It is more than 'knowledge transfer' — the exportation of neatly wrapped solutions rolling off the campus conveyer belt. Collaboration demands mutual humility and respect, joint ownership of learning and co-creation of an unimagined potential for innovation—qualities that move universities well beyond the typical elitist sense of "service." Knowledge, after all, involves the integration of theory, practice and production."

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