

UND ENGINEERING'S SCHULTZ WIN RESEARCH CORRIDOR AWARD

Senator Dorgan says pair recognized for innovative leadership

(FARGO, N.D.) – During the Red River Valley Research Corridor Milestones and Horizons Conference held on Monday, Oct. 12, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) honored two of the region's most widely recognized innovators for their contributions to the Research Corridor.

Dr. Richard Schultz of Grand Forks was presented with the "Discovery Award" for his outstanding leadership and service in building and raising the visibility of the region's research enterprise and for groundbreaking scientific and applied research that has a regional, national or global impact.

Schultz currently serves as chair of the University of North Dakota's electrical engineering program and chief technology officer for Machine Visionaries, a UND spin-off company dedicated to the commercialization of aviation electronics for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry. He works closely with UND's UAS federally recognized Center of Excellence to develop cutting-edge technologies.

Pharmacology Research and Clinical Studies Institute (PRACS) founder and former chief executive officer Dr. James Carlson of Fargo was presented with the "Pathfinder Award" for his achievement in developing and deploying breakthrough technologies, products, processes or services in the marketplace that have a significant effect on the way business and society operate.

Carlson created Fargo-based PRACS, a firm that studies the effects of prescription drugs on humans, in 1983. Under his leadership, PRACS grew to 480 employees and worked on over 400 projects annually. The company was sold to Cetero Research in 2006. Carlson was named the 2006 Ernst and Young entrepreneur of the year in the life sciences category. He is the benefactor of South Fargo's new library.

"James and Richard are two of the most innovative leaders in North Dakota who have been committed to growing research, development and commercialization in our state," Dorgan said. "PRACS continues to be one of the most widely recognized North Dakota businesses, and the work the UAS Center in Grand Forks is doing contributes greatly to our nation's defense systems. On Monday, I was proud to present these awards to James and Richard for their important work and contributions to our state."

"These Research Corridor awards are intended to recognize people who have demonstrated success in the kinds of endeavors that are proven factors in creating thriving, innovation-driven economies, including cutting-edge scientific inquiry, translation and application, and mobilizing collaboration of the triple helix consisting of university, business and government," said Dr. Delore Zimmerman, director of the Red River Valley Research Corridor Coordinating Center.