

StFX Researchers Get Commercialization Boost



Antigonish, Nova Scotia, February 23, 2006 – St. Francis Xavier University researchers are one step closer to turning their research into market successes. Four grants of \$10,000 were recently awarded through the Early Stage Commercialization Fund.

“These awards are proof that applied, commercially promising research is growing at StFX,” said Andrew Kendall, StFX’s industry liaison officer. “This funding helps fill the gap that exists at the beginning of the commercialization process, when researchers need to prove their concepts in order to attract more funding from other partners.”

PhD candidate David Risk of the StFX Environmental Sciences Research Centre (ESRC) received three awards to support his research into improving and expanding the capabilities of soil analytical equipment, and to continue ESRC work on biogeochemical cycles and climate change. Risk earned the grants with assistance from PhD candidate Amanda Diochon, Dr. Lisa Kellman and Dr. Hugo Beltrami.

Dr. Wendy MacCaull, a StFX mathematician, was awarded funds to research web-based applications for social networks, using the StFX High Performance Computing Facility. The mathematical and computer science research will develop protocols and experience for other web-based services with commercial applications, such as e-commerce.

The Early Stage Commercialization Fund helps Nova Scotia university and community college researchers prove that their concepts can be turned into successful products and services. While researchers’ needs vary, many require only minimal funding to get a project with commercial potential off the ground.

The funding awards were made possible by the StFX Industry Liaison Office, Nova Scotia Office of Economic Development and InNOVAcorp, an organization helping the province’s early stage companies commercialize their technologies and succeed in the global marketplace.

The successful StFX projects were chosen from 10 competing applications. In addition to the funding, the researchers will receive hands-on business guidance from InNOVAcorp.

More funding opportunities through the Early Stage Commercialization Fund will be available in 2006.

Contact:

Andrew Kendall
StFX - Industry Liaison Officer
902.863.3660

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