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Joe Meredith, Ph.D. receives the Virginia TradePort Innovator of the Year Award

Blacksburg, VA, November 9, 2015 – The Virginia Conference on World Trade took place November 4-5, 2015 in Norfolk, Virginia with over 280 in attendance (<http://vacwt.org/awards/index.html>).

The conference helps attendees make valuable connections that can take their international business to the next level. During the two day event the Virginia TradePort Innovator of the Year was awarded.

This year the award was presented to Joe Meredith, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The award recognizes a company or individual that has made a significant impact on international trade and business development in and around the Virginia TradePort.

Dr. Meredith holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech ('69), a Master's degree in Aeronautics, Astronautics and Engineering Science from Purdue University ('70), and a Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech ('97). He also is a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course.

David Denny, 2010 recipient, said, "In order to be a successful global competitor as a rural area you have to possess the "global mindset." One definition of an innovator is 'someone who introduces something new and makes changes in anything established.' This year's recipient has clearly demonstrated the attributes of an innovator and has a major impact on not only OUR region, but also an impact directly and indirectly across the Commonwealth."

"Joe has been a prime mover in the business development community for over 20 years, including leading the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center to the 2010 International Research Park of the Year award. International visitors to the region and to Virginia Tech always get a tour of the VTCRC and valuable time with Joe. His personal commitment to global awareness and sensitivity led him to a ten year commitment to learning Chinese, and he recently backed that up with a trip to the PRC.

Simply put, he has been and continues to be a particularly valuable asset to our community, both locally and globally" said 2012 recipient, Jim Flowers, Executive Director of VT KnowledgeWorks.

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About the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center

www.vtcrc.com

Established in 1985, the 230-acre Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (VTCRC) boasts more than 33 buildings with over 2,900 employees and is home to more than 180 private companies and research centers. The VTCRC is owned and managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit non-stock corporation established in 1948. The VTCRC strives to develop a growing, prestigious research park for high-technology companies and in collaboration with the university, advance the research, educational and technology transfer missions of Virginia Tech.