



Tennessee Technology Development Corporation's Dr. James Stover Wins Prestigious Tibbetts Award

Recognized By Small Business Administration for Exceptional Innovation

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Nashville, TN - Tennessee Technology Development Corporation (TTDC) announced today that Vice President of Operations Dr. James Stover was recognized in Washington, D.C. with a Tibbetts Award by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as one of the nation's leading individuals making outstanding contributions to its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Named for Roland Tibbetts, the father and pioneer of the SBIR program, the Tibbetts Award is made to businesses or individuals recognized for advancing research-based small business development in the United States.

Commenting on the award, TTDC President and CEO, Dr. Leslie Wisner-Lynch, said, "TTDC is extremely proud of Dr. Stover and the many contributions he has made through his work with our partners from across the state, including the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service SBIR/STTR program. Strategic programming partner relationships like those have allowed for the development of highly effective programs that are essential to creating a culture and environment that not only supports, but encourages, highly innovative businesses to develop, grow and thrive in Tennessee. This is indeed an exciting honor for James, TTDC and all of Tennessee."

Providing additional comment, Dr. William Evans, chairman of the TTDC board and CEO of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, said, "We share collective pride for the national recognition and believe it highlights the extremely important role TTDC fulfills. Governor Haslam and others seek to make Tennessee the leading state in the southeast for high-quality jobs. The sources of those jobs are the businesses similar to those supported by SBIR and STTR and we are extremely pleased to be recognized."

Dr. Stover noted, "It is a tremendous honor to be chosen for a Tibbetts Award. This award is an acknowledgement of TTDC's achievement in improving SBIR outcomes and transforming the successful research and development initiatives into commercial enterprises in our great state. Advancing small business technological innovation is just one of the many ways TTDC is supporting the state's priorities related to high-quality jobs and long-term economic prosperity for the hard-working citizens of Tennessee. Achieving this objective starts with creating the environment conducive for high-growth, high-tech companies to flourish."

TTDC utilized state funding to provide SBIR outreach, education, training, mentoring, workshops and to promote its Phase 0/00 program, which is a competitive application process designed to financially support SBIR applicants in Tennessee with the goal of achieving win rates that are at least double the national average.

"This is a proud day not only for TTDC but also for the state of Tennessee," said Sean Greene, SBA's Associate Administrator for Investment and Senior Adviser for Innovation. "Companies like TTDC represent the best in American ingenuity."

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An awards ceremony was held on February 15, 2011, in Washington, D.C. Following the ceremony, recipients met with SBA Administrator Karen Mills, White House CTO Aneesh Chopra, Senior Advisors to President Obama, and attended a reception at the White House.

About TTDC

TTDC is a private, non-profit organization focused on transformational economic development strategies that create jobs and wealth in Tennessee. Designed to improve the statewide business climate for innovation and entrepreneurship, TTDC serves as a complement to ongoing business recruitment and expansion efforts of state and local officials. TTDC is funded under an agreement with the state of Tennessee.

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