

Software Technologies Distinguished Lecture Series 2012

Florida Gulf Coast University

Academic 7 – Auditorium 114

March 22, 2012, 6:30-7:30pm

Creating Entrepreneurial University

Borko Furht, Professor and Chairman

Dept. of Computer & Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Abstract. In our talk we present non-traditional, radical university arrangements that we implemented in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at FAU in order to create an entrepreneurial university. In the present state of the economy, research funding has been drastically reduced – these are chances for universities. However, universities can only effectively become incubators of entrepreneurship and innovation if they themselves practice entrepreneurship. This “re-conceptualization” involves non-traditional, often radical university arrangements. In this presentation, we describe our entrepreneurial, research and innovation strategy in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Florida Atlantic University, which we implemented during the last several years. The backbone of our new concept is the NSF-sponsored Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement with 15 industry members, a more than 20 applied research projects. In addition, we implemented an innovation leadership program for the best students, providing courses in entrepreneurship, business, and communications. The university has created Research Park at university premises with more than 30 high-tech companies; as part of our strategy we established various kinds of collaborations with these companies. We also have a strong Industry Advisory Board with 25 industry executives who advice us in running our engineering programs. Finally, we created joined industry/university laboratories, in which our faculty and students work jointly with industry scientists and engineers in creating innovative systems and products.