

February 4, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

Since its establishment in 2009, the University of Louisville Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research has become an established leader in Kentucky's research efforts in renewable energy. The Center's main objective is to foster development of transformational concepts and accelerate the translation of technology concepts from the lab to pre-commercial scale via large-scale device prototyping.

While the primary focus is on research and development of new technologies and utilization of renewable resources to improve high-tech manufacturing activity in Kentucky, the Center also supports and implements activities designed to educate the community as a whole on renewable energy concepts. One such avenue is through the Leigh Ann Conn Prize in Renewable Energy. The Conn Prize was established in 2012 to recognize outstanding renewable energy ideas and achievements with proven global impact. The award is presented bi-annually and nominations are accepted from throughout the world for this distinguished honor. To date, a Swiss chemist and a Harvard University chemist and professor have received the award.

The recipients are required to deliver a public address at the University of Louisville that conveys the importance and impact of the winning idea. They must also participate in community and campus events associated with the award ceremonies. This engagement and interaction encourages the facilitation and exchange of concepts and ideas, creates awareness and also serves as an inspiration to others.

There is no other recognition similar to Conn Prize and the innovative approach to disseminate outstanding ideas and proven achievements in the renewable energy field. While it is a great benefit to our community, the press releases that are shared are also picked up through other state, national and international media. That is exposure beyond compare.

KPPC serves as a technical resource to Kentucky business and industry to help them develop environmentally sustainable, cost-save solutions for improved efficiency. The Conn Center's objectives and goals align with the principles of the Center's mission to assist our manufacturers with sustainable energy efficiency alternatives. We encourage and facilitate engagement between the Conn Center and our stakeholders and are proud to highlight the Conn Prize in our communications and outreach efforts. The investment of resources, time and money that is put into awarding this prize provides an invaluable impact on the community.

Sincerely,



Lissa McCracken
Executive Director