The Office of Research and the Corporate Engagement Office invite nominations for The Ohio State University 2018 Innovator of the Year awards. These awards recognize and celebrate outstanding innovation accomplishments of faculty, staff and students. Nominations are sought in the following categories: Innovator of the Year, Early Career Innovator of the Year and Next Generation Innovator of the Year. One award will be given in each category.

The Innovator of the Year and Early Career Innovator of the Year awards are intended to recognize an Ohio State researcher who is working actively to promote commercialization of university intellectual property through invention disclosures filed, patents applied for and/or received, technologies licensed or spinoff companies formed. These activities support economic development in the central Ohio region and serve to attract companies that create a base of operations within the state. The creation of separate award categories for more established researchers and for early career researchers allows cultivation of an entrepreneurial spirit among all of our investigators.

The Next Generation Innovator of the Year award, granted to students (undergraduate and graduate) or postdocs, is intended to recognize innovation and entrepreneurship that has contributed to the development or commercialization of a new technology. It may also recognize a trainee-initiated start-up company whose success is a result of entrepreneurial talent, creativity and energy.

Nomination Instructions and Criteria
Each college may nominate up to two candidates for each of the three awards. A nomination should consist of:
• a nomination letter from the college dean, associate dean for research or designee, which includes a description of the candidate’s research and potential or known scientific or economic impacts of their discovery/technology
• a summary of relevant commercialization activities, such as invention disclosures, patents (applied for and/or awarded), licenses generated and companies formed

The nominees for the Innovator or Early Career Innovator may be faculty or staff members. For the Early Career Innovator category, a candidate must be either an assistant or early associate professor (if a faculty member), or have been at Ohio State no more than 10 years (if a staff member). For the Next Generation Innovator category, a nominee must be a current undergraduate or graduate student, or a student who has graduated within the last year, or a current postdoctoral trainee.

Deans, associate deans for research, or their designee may upload a single PDF nomination for each of their nominees using the filename convention “Nominee Name, Award Category, College (e.g., Brutus Buckeye, Innovator of the Year, College of Medicine) via the Office of Research’s Research Funding and Awards system at the following link: https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/opportunity/4065.

Submit nominations by using the Office of Research’s Research Funding and Awards system.

Questions prior to nomination, should be submitted to:

Brad Harris
Chief of Staff
Office of Research
harris.54@osu.edu
614-688-2576

Nominations must be received by February 22, 2019.
An internal review committee will review all nominations.

The Office of Research and Corporate Engagement Office will present the awards at the 2019 Research and Innovation Showcase on April 24, 2019, at the Ohio Union.