Alan S. Paau is vice provost for technology transfer and economic development at Cornell University, as well as executive director of the Cornell Center for Technology, Enterprise, and Commercialization (CCTEC). The new vice provost title signals the importance Cornell attaches to technology transfer and economic development. Paau is the first to hold this new title.

Paau led the technology transfer office at UCSD, where he developed a successful Start-Up Boot Camp program. The boot camp stimulated an entrepreneurial culture at UCSD by bringing together faculty, lawyers, accountants, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists.

Previously, he was executive director of the Iowa State University Research Foundation, where he developed a focused technology transfer approach, and associate director of the Biotechnology Center at the Ohio State University, with responsibilities in research administration, technology management, and industry liaison. Paau held faculty appointments in several departments at Iowa State and Ohio State. He has published more than 30 refereed research articles, and he holds eight U.S. and 15 foreign patents.

“We are delighted that Alan Paau has assumed leadership of CCTEC, which spearheads Cornell’s efforts in technology transfer and intellectual property–led economic development,” says Robert C. Richardson, senior vice provost for research. “Cornell’s world-class scientists and scholars generate intellectual property in areas as diverse as biodegradable wipes that detect biohazards, microscopy techniques that image living tissue, and wine grapes that thrive in cool climates like central New York State. CCTEC’s mission is to assure the timely and efficient transfer of new knowledge and discoveries to the public for its benefit.”

Cornell’s New Vice Provost for Technology Transfer and Economic Development