

Tue, Apr 2, 2024

Dear Friends,

You may have seen some blog posts from the John Locke Foundation last week regarding NCInnovation. Unfortunately, the Locke Foundation and its media arm, the Carolina Journal, have been publishing inaccurate information for much of the past year.

Here are a few points to keep in mind if you read the posts and/or as you speak to people in your network who may ask about it. This list is nowhere near exhaustive.

- 1) The Locke Foundation conceded to us that it based its past year of opposition on an old bill draft that never became law. When we asked for sources for the Locke Foundation's inaccurate claim that NCInnovation funds private businesses, they responded: "[Here is] the budget bill that created NCI," and linked to an old draft that never passed the legislature.

This back and forth led to the Locke Foundation publishing a correction: "Locke regrets any confusion or misunderstanding this may have caused. The budget bill signed into law limits NCInnovation's funding to grants directed toward university researchers through the academic institutions at which they work."

- 2) The Locke Foundation now says it opposes NCInnovation because we employ a merit-based grant process. After publishing its correction, the Locke Foundation pivoted to this argument: "NCInnovation gets to choose which applied research is deserving of the taxpayer seed funding and which isn't."

If applied research funding is not to be distributed based on merit, then it is unclear to us how it should be distributed. NCInnovation's legislative mandate is to fund university applied research that has commercial promise. We are executing on that mandate.

- 3) Hundreds of millions of public dollars already fund university applied research. Our role is to support applied research at the critical R&D phase between proof of concept and entry to the private market. We will not shy away from this core premise: It is good when university applied research is commercialized.

What's more, universities earn revenue from the research born on their campus that is commercialized in the private sector. Every promising applied research endeavor that dies on the vine because researchers did not have funding to advance it any further is a lost opportunity, both for the private sector and for the public university.

Some of the greatest technological advancements in history were born on American campuses and commercialized by American companies. This model has underpinned American prosperity since World War II.

We are available to answer any questions you might have about inaccurate information published by the John Locke Foundation, or any other topic.

Sincerely,

Erica Shrader

Vice President Corporate Affairs

NCInnovation, Inc.

4721 Emperor Blvd, Ste. 150, Durham, NC 27703

P 202-281-6755 | E eshrader@ncinnovation.org