The 21st Century Needs Entrepreneurial Scientists and Engineers

with

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Dr. Kjelstrom will discuss the need for graduate education programs in science & engineering that includes entrepreneurship, business and social science skills. There are not enough faculty positions for all of the graduate students within our universities, so we need to prepare them for a variety of career paths, including creating new technology businesses. These creative, visionary students need to connect the dots, so they understand the complexities of moving their ideas to the marketplace.

UC Davis has been a leader in exposing pre-doctoral students to the biotechnology industry and entrepreneurship through the Designated Emphasis in Biotechnology graduate program since the mid 1990s. The leadership of UC Davis is focused on innovation in research and inventions, which can lead to new businesses and new technologies. The economic impact of UC science and engineering research is impressive. It is imperative that the public support STEM education at all levels so that we can continue to be world leaders in invention and innovation.

Dr. Judith Kjelstrom has a rich background in health science and biotechnology education and training, clinical laboratory science, microbiology and immunology and program administration. She currently directs the UC Davis Biotechnology Program and the Advanced Degree Program for corporate employees. She is the co-director for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-Integrating Medicine into Basic Science (IMBS) Graduate Training Program and the program coordinator for NIH T32 Graduate Training Program in Biomolecular Technology as well as the innovative Designated Emphasis in Biotechnology graduate program. She is committed to developing creative right brain thinking, entrepreneurship and business skills in PhD candidates in science and engineering. Prior to her employment at UC Davis, Dr. Kjelstrom spent 12 years as a clinical laboratory scientist, and oversaw the in-service and medical technology trainee education. She earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Clinical Laboratory Technology from Sacramento State University and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the UC Davis.