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TECH Fort Worth client Organizational Wellness receives two grants totaling \$400,000

FORT WORTH, Texas – Organizational Wellness & Learning Systems (OWLS), an Acceleration Client of TECH Fort Worth, has received \$400,000 in new grant funding from the National Institutes of Health to develop two innovative e-health wellness products.

OWLS, founded by Dr. Joel Bennett, is a science-based consulting and training service. Its focus is the health and well-being of working adults for better workplace productivity and family life.

“These Small Business Innovation Research Grants enable us to develop science-brand equity in strategic alignment with other firms,” Dr. Bennett said. “As the organizational wellness marketplace grows, we anticipate companies will want credible, effective and clinically tested programs. We have previously helped human resources professionals with our IntelliPrev™ product, business managers with ExecuPrev™ and small business owners with our Small Business Wellness Initiative. Now we are expanding to help work groups and individuals.”

A grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse will allow OWLS to web-enable its award-winning Team Awareness classroom program. The new program will incorporate interactive social media into online and mobile phone applications to support individuals, work groups and workplaces dealing with a wide range of health issues (stress, relationships, mental health and substance abuse). The program will work with interactive, team-based incentives through online applications.

Team Awareness already has been delivered to an estimated 10,000 workers throughout the U.S., with clinical trials showing increased help-seeking for problems, reduced stigma for help-seeking, reductions in stress and problem drinking, and enhancements in work productivity and workplace climate.

The second grant focuses on mind/body and holistic wellness and is from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The new product will disseminate an Internet-based wellness program that gives instruction, guidance and social support for the self-care practice of Qigong (pronounced chee-gong) – a form of meditative movement, relaxation and self-massage based in Traditional Chinese Medicine and showing positive health effects in clinical trials research.

“This adds to substantial funding OWLS has received for earlier projects,” said Darlene Ryan, Executive Director of TECH Fort Worth. “It is great to see federal agencies recognizing and funding the work that OWLS is doing to make workplaces safer and healthier.”

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TECH Fort Worth is a nonprofit technology incubator, with offices at the James E. Guinn Complex in Fort Worth South and at the UNT Health Science Center’s Center for BioHealth. Its mission is to grow the local technology-based economy. For more information, go to www.techfortworth.org.

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