

Dr. Shekhar Bhansali Receives \$369,771 NSF GOALI Award



(September 8, 2009) - Dr. Shekhar Bhansali, professor of electrical engineering, and Dr. Tom Weller, professor and associate dean of research, were awarded a \$369,771 three-year National Science Foundation GOALI grant.

The grant supports Dr. Bhansali's and Dr. Weller's research efforts to produce low cost sensors that can be scanned across the surface of a material, or just above the surface, and extract high frequency electronic properties. This is real-world experience using state-of-the-art semiconductor technology that provides a unique learning experience for USF students

Additionally, they are collaborating with GOALI partner TriQuint, in conjunction with its university partnership program, to develop a new course sequence that will allow USF senior- and graduate-level students to design microwave integrated circuits that will be fabricated in TriQuint's semiconductor foundry in Portland, OR. TriQuint employee Eid Alsabbagh is also a co-PI on this research.

"This project will merge advances in micron-scale probes that have been studied for biomedical applications, with very high density, microwave electronics," said Dr. Weller, co-PI. "One application of particular importance is non-destructive testing of advanced materials that are being developed for future wireless devices."

USF is one of only a handful of universities worldwide to have this level of access to TriQuint technology.

The Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) Program aims to synergize university/industry partnerships by making funds available to support these linkages.

The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded \$380.4 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2008/2009. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.

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