

PRESS RELEASE

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**Becky Hernandez Receives the AUTM Bayh-Dole Award
for Advocacy in Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer**

[Seattle, February 10, 2026] – AUTM, the non-profit leader in efforts to educate, promote and inspire professionals to support the development of academic research that changes the world and drives innovation forward, presented Becky Hernandez with the 2026 Bayh-Dole Award at the 2026 AUTM Annual Meeting. The award recognizes her leadership in advancing intellectual property policy and her sustained advocacy for technology transfer on behalf of universities and nonprofit research institutions.

Hernandez serves as Director for Operations, Patents and Compliance at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where she oversees compliance with the Bayh-Dole Act and related regulations for Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, manages disclosure and sponsor compliance systems, and ensures the accuracy and integrity of technology transfer operations. She is widely respected for her expansive understanding of compliance issues and her ability to translate complex regulatory requirements into practical processes that support responsible commercialization.

A committed advocate for the technology transfer community, Hernandez regularly participates in AUTM Hill Days, engaging directly with policymakers to share real-world perspectives on research commercialization, compliance, and stewardship of federally funded innovation. She has also served on the AUTM Board of Directors and multiple AUTM committees, contributing her expertise to strengthen the profession through both informal networking and mentorship as well as leadership and instruction at the AUTM Compliance Course, now part of AUTM University. She also works closely with key federal personnel to shape the implementation of Bayh-Dole compliance tools, such as iEdison, that underpin tech transfer offices' compliance operations.

“It is a privilege to work alongside AUTM members to advocate for policies that help translate academic research into real-world impact and to be able to share my knowledge and experience to help other technology transfer offices do the same,” said Hernandez. “I am deeply honored to receive this award.”

The Bayh-Dole Award honors the legacy of Senators Birch Bayh and Robert Dole, whose landmark legislation reshaped technology transfer and innovation in the United States.

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About AUTM

AUTM is the non-profit leader in efforts to educate, promote, and inspire professionals to support the development of academic research that changes the world and drives innovation forward. Our community is comprised of more than 3,000 Members who work in more than 800 universities, research centers, hospitals, businesses and government organizations around the globe.