

From: [Lesa Mitchell](#)
To: [roi](#)
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When I was at the Kauffman Foundation we funded and set up iBridge Network because VCs, entrepreneurs and investors wanted a single source of access to university innovation. University Tech Transfer offices refused to use it and instead NSF or someone funded Rob Lowes technology platform which has been up and running forever and no one uses it.

We also funded iStart so that all university grad students or undergrads participating in competitions would have a single source of sharing what they are doing for purposes of investors or linking with later stage cos. We were sole funder and it was very very active so it was turned over to another Fdn who has essentially not moved it much further. As an investor I am constantly looking for entrepreneurs and finding winners or even applicants of the Rice or Baylor etc competition means I have to go to everyone website. No one is going to do that and 80% of these things have tech linked to University and probably loosely federal funding.

Lastly Desh Despande and I at Kauffman funded the creation of iCorp and sat on the board for the first two years. Again, it is imposible as an investor to easily find all iCorp invested companies. Government funded websites have horrible UI/UX (just like NIST) and therefore we are simply wasting all of these funding models thinking that investors are going to hunt them down in the archives of govt branches.

U TTTOs are the biggest problem. President Obamas first Sect of Commerce held a meeting that Aneesh Chopra, Tom Kalil, myself and others organized with University Presidents to talk about this topic. The AAU held a phone call with all University Presidents the night prior to event and said our common story is that we don't have a problem and unless there is more federal funding we don't need a change. So the university lobbyists are going to stand in the way of any change on this topic.

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<https://youtu.be/S-3YgWroCdo>

...I walk and type