Tom Cable inducted into Puget Sound Business Hall of Fame

Washington Research Foundation (WRF) co-founder Thomas J. Cable has been inducted into the Puget Sound Business Hall of Fame. The event, held at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront hotel on March 21st, “celebrates the accomplishments of individuals who have made a lasting impact on this region’s business and society.”

A former Navy submarine officer, Mr. Cable co-founded WRF in 1981 to maximize the value of intellectual property developed at Washington state’s research institutions. The foundation has disbursed over $390 million to the University of Washington and other local organizations, and ongoing revenue from WRF’s licensing and venture capital activities continues to fund its mission of supporting research and scholarship in Washington state. Mr. Cable served as WRF’s chairman from its inception until 2011, when C. Kent Carlson, a partner with global law firm K&L Gates, took over. Mr. Cable retains an active role as the foundation’s vice chairman.

Mr. Cable has been influential in the region’s venture capital community for many years. He was co-founder of Cable & Howse Ventures in 1977, which was the founding investor in Immunex. Immunex became one of Washington state’s most successful companies thanks to its development of drugs such as ENBREL, used in the treatment of arthritis and psoriasis. World-leader Amgen acquired Immunex, which employed almost 1,600 people, for $16 billion in 2002. Additionally, Cable & Howse was an early investor in Seattle’s oldest biotech firm, Zymos (now ZymoGenetics). The company focuses on the discovery and development of therapeutic proteins, and has improved the health of millions of people worldwide through helping to commercialize products including insulins and pharmaceuticals that control surgical bleeding. Following the formation of Cable & Howse, Mr. Cable was a partner in the investment banking firm Cable, Howse & Ragen. In 1997 he co-founded the Alliance of Angels, one of the Pacific Northwest’s largest angel investor groups.

Mr. Cable has served on the boards of the University of Washington’s President’s Club and the Technology Alliance, co-founding the latter in 1996 to support the growth of Washington state’s high-impact industries.

Washington Research Foundation’s CEO, Ron Howell, stated, "WRF, the University of Washington, and every other institution in this region have been lucky to have had the benefit of Tom's leadership. Tom works on solving problems with razor-like focus and total integrity. He will make it fun to convince you to get something done that others wouldn't think possible. I am proud to have worked with Tom and learned so much from him. Tom's induction into the Hall of Fame is richly deserved."

Washington Research Foundation, 2815 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98102