

Innovator Takes the Helm at TechPort



Tommy Luginbill, the new director of Techport UAS Business Incubator of Southern Maryland, thinks about the entrepreneurs who are beyond working out of their garage and are ready to announce him or herself to the world. He also thinks about the large companies who have made billions of dollars but have run out of ideas.

“They get so big they sometimes forget how to innovate and do real product development,” Luginbill says of the large companies.

Connecting these two entities in a safe place where they can meet, discuss and explore possibilities is what Luginbill has in mind for Techport, a key component of the [Saint Marys County Innovation District](#) anchored by the St. Mary’s County Airport.

“There needs to be a better way,” Luginbill says. “There’s so much value in big companies meeting small companies as well as small companies meeting large ones. They both are in need of something the other party has.”

Luginbill, a native of Rockville, Maryland, wants Techport to be the meeting ground for such encounters.

“I have a real desire for people to have real conversation,” says Luginbill, who is currently working on his doctorate in Business Administration from Florida Institute of Technology. He has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland. He even envisions TechPort hosting on-site meetings to help companies have easier access to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

“It’s a major problem for civilians getting access to base because of security,” Luginbill says. Instead of spending a lot of time trying to meet on base, Luginbill has the space and the desire for these type meetings to take place at TechPort.

Luginbill comes to TechPort from the College of Southern Maryland in LaPlata where he served as director of the Entrepreneur and Innovation Institute, was a Business Administration program coordinator and assistant professor. He established Velocity Center at Indian Head as a place for collaboration and innovation.

Noting the similarity between the Velocity Center and TechPort, Luginbill says: “Both serve a similar purpose of community engagement, county involvement and access and communication. It’s serving the community to get people together.”

Luginbill is also chairman and co-founder of Grey Matter renamed Grey Ops, a technology transfer firm established from the University of Maryland’s National Science Foundation I-Corps program and based in Dunkirk, Maryland, where Luginbill and his wife, Alison, own a home and a farm for geriatric horses.