

29 October 2012

Baker Mountain Wins Crowd-Funding Contest

On 27 October 2012 Hampshire County's Baker Mountain Research Corporation won the "Pitch Your Idea" event at the CreateWV conference held at the Charleston Civic Center. Baker Mountain Research Corporation was invited to participate in the contest based on its written submission. Dr. Ralph Wojtowicz, president and senior scientist at Baker Mountain, gave a presentation to a panel of judges and was selected as a finalist. He presented his idea again during the evening banquet, and the judges and attendees voted him the winner in the "entrepreneur" category. According to Dr. Wojtowicz of Yellow Spring, "Gaining traction on a technology project such as the one we described at the event is an important step toward growing our company and sustaining new initiatives."

Baker Mountain is currently working on a federally-funded research contract to develop new algorithms for future quantum computers. Its staff are also consulting on a grant to create new artificial intelligence algorithms and methods. Since June of this year, Baker Mountain staff have given research talks at Cambridge University in England, in Princeton, NJ and at a NASA workshop in Morgantown. They have participated in an Appalachian Regional Commission workshop in Charleston and a RESA 8 STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workshop in Martinsburg.

Baker Mountain Research Corporation is a nonprofit organization established in December 2010. Its mission has three complementary aspects: to advance scientific knowledge, to develop science-based solutions to local and global challenges, and to foster scientific education. A challenge it seeks to address is the lack of scientific career and educational opportunities in our region. The company works to build an interdisciplinary community that facilitates synthetic and analytic exploration, mentorship, sharing of experiences and which provides fair financial support. Baker Mountain was granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status as a 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) public charity in September 2012 allowing it to pursue a broad range of educational initiatives and research projects.

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Dr. Wojtowicz at CreateWV banquet



(L to R) Holly Clark (Bridgemont Community and Technical College), Dr. Wojtowicz and Mistie Richmond (New River Gorge Regional Development Authority)



(L to R) Holly Clark, Dr. Wojtowicz, Maurice Lopes (EarlyShares.com) and Mistie Richmond