

## Welch Allyn hands off research incubator to SU

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By **James T. Mulder / The Post-Standard**

Syracuse, N.Y. -- Medical device manufacturer **Welch Allyn** is transferring a research incubator it founded three years ago to **Syracuse University**.

The change will allow the incubator, known as **Blue Highway**, to expand its efforts to develop innovations beyond health care to other areas of science and technology, company and SU officials announced today.

Welch Allyn of Skaneateles founded Blue Highway on the SU campus in 2008 as a way for researchers and students to come up with breakthrough ideas it can incorporate into its products. Ideas incubated at Blue Highway include biodegradable ear probe covers, non-invasive heart monitors and adaptive computing for hospital rooms that provides information customized for different caregiver roles.

Scott Gucciardi said Blue Highway is working on "radically new approaches" to diagnosing diseases of the eyes and ears and measuring body temperature. It typically takes five or more years for innovations like these to be commercialized, he said.

By becoming part of SU, Blue Highway will be able to do the same thing across many fields.

"We are really going to stretch that highway everywhere from health care and medical technologies to cyber security, forensics and other areas," said SU Chancellor Nancy Cantor.

Welch Allyn will continue to work with Blue Highway. It will provide \$10 million to Blue Highway over the next four years in exchange for research and development services.

Blue Highway will continue to be housed in SU's Science and Technology Center building. It employs 14 people who will become SU employees. SU hopes Blue Highway's employment will increase as it expands, said Kevin C. Quinn, SU's senior vice president for public affairs.

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