

## BCT Historian shows how the past can drive innovation

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*Director Robert Brevelle Named Top Global Innovator*

It is not every day that a historian is recognized for innovation. To some, these topics may even appear mutually exclusive. However, in the engineering labs at the Innovation Center at the University of Texas at Dallas, there is a historian leading several research and development projects involving multiple early-stage startup companies. Robert Brevelle works with students and alumni as he is interviewed for a magazine article regarding his nomination as a Top Global Innovator.

"We were ecstatic to learn Robert was nominated and now selected as one of the top innovators in the world" stated fellow BCT Board Member, Sylvie Martel. "He is an outstanding and gifted innovator. Robert can design, build, and market a new product and then tell you the history of the mathematicians and physicists that the technology is based on. He serves as the historian for land trusts involving Native American heritage sites and he is a founding sponsor of the National Museum of the US Army."

Robert and a select group of cohorts will be featured in the magazine later this year. These innovators are amongst the Who's Who in technology, invention, and entrepreneurship.

"It is an honor just to be considered for such an award," stated Robert Brevelle. "I greatly appreciate the industry and my fellow innovators for their kind words, encouragement, and support."

When asked what is the importance of history in innovation, Robert answered "It is difficult to know where a technology or market is headed without knowing its history. Our past, for better or worse, tells our story. It shaped our culture, needs, and solutions. History also teaches us about failures, successes, and the moral cost. It should have a significant bearing on an innovator's ethical compass. In terms of education, history is our foundation. The fundamentals of the hard and soft sciences and of course, mathematics drive all technology, and the most efficient means to be exposed to and master these fundamentals is still the university system. Innovators with this appreciation will always have an advantage."

"It does not surprise me one bit that Robert has been selected as a top innovator because of his obvious accomplishments and experience," stated Chandler Young, CEO of iJustOrder ([www.ijustorder.com](http://www.ijustorder.com)). Robert recently served on the highly publicized startup's Board of Directors. "He's one of those guys where if you give him grapes, he will turn it into wine."

Robert held the esteemed position of EIR at Intellectual Ventures ([www.intellectualventures.com](http://www.intellectualventures.com)), a \$6 billion invention firm with over 90,000 patents. He has published technical papers in journals and conference proceedings including the International Conference on Innovation and Technology, International Software Assurance Conference, and Rush University Medical College Research. He is a member of the International High IQ Society ([www.ihiqs.org](http://www.ihiqs.org)) and the Project Management Institute ([www.pmi.org](http://www.pmi.org)).

Robert has received awards for innovation and engineering from L-3Harris, the Aeronautical Systems Center, Department of Defense, Illinois Institute of Technology, and NASA.