

Prof. Dr. Nils Crasselt
Dekan der Schumpeter School of Business and Economics

Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman,

Dear Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Beutelmann,

Dear President of the University of Wuppertal, Prof. Koch,

Dear former President of our Administrative District, Mr. Büssow,

Dear Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Schumpeter School Foundation, Mr. Schmearsal,

Dear Chairman of the Board of the Foundation, Prof. Koubek,

Dear colleagues,

Dear members of the Schumpeter School,

Dear guests,

Not to forget: Dear Eric von Hippel!

As the dean of the Schumpeter School of Business and Economics it is my great pleasure and honor to open the award ceremony this afternoon.

The University of Wuppertal's faculty of business and economics took the byname Schumpeter School of Business and Economics in the fall of 2008.

At the time this name accommodated our already strong position in research and teaching on topics related to entrepreneurship, innovation and economic development.

But it also was a mission statement to foster and further improve our activities in this area.

Over the last nine years our School has greatly developed and lived up to the expectations raised with this mission statement. Just to name a few things:

- We have set up a new research center on entrepreneurship and innovation, namely our Jackstädt Center.
- We have hired four new professors, one fully tenured and three at junior level which are active in this area.
- We have set up a specialized Master's program on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
- We will be hosting the G-Forum, a large and renowned conference on Entrepreneurship, this fall. Again, for a second time after 2002.
- And last in this incomplete list, but certainly not least: We have established the Schumpeter School Award.

This award is given in order to – quote from our homepage – “highlight the importance of the work of Joseph A. Schumpeter, to stimulate Schumpeterian research, and to diffuse this research among scholars and practitioners.”

It is awarded to outstanding scholars who have significantly contributed to Schumpeterian research.

The award was first given in 2011 and since then biannually always in the years with odd numbers. It is my pleasure to welcome Dietmar Harhoff who received the award in 2013 among our guests today.

This year it will be the fourth time that we give the award. And I think that our jury has again made an excellent choice.

Giving the Schumpeter Award involves more than just this afternoon’s ceremony:

Our program started yesterday with a doctoral colloquium held by Eric von Hippel. Sixteen of our PhD students attended the colloquium and I hear from them that it has been a very inspiring experience.

This morning the program continued with a scientific workshop. Our own researchers came together with some of the most renowned experts in the area of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Now finally, we come to the award ceremony and afterwards for a snack meal that gives you the opportunity to network with the award winner, faculty and guests.

Ladies and gentleman, that’s all I have to say today. I wish you all a very enjoyable afternoon! And now I hand over to the Prof. Lambert Koch, the President of our University.