



The current company, formerly known as Wright State Research Institute, is around two years old, and has more than 80 employees. In this short time, the organization has made significant strides in innovation.

Earlier this year, Parallax garnered \$9.6 million to expand its Academic Partnership Engagement Experiment (APEX) program to the Mountain State and the Appalachia region, from southern New York to Georgia.

APEX will use the funding to connect academic and industry innovators in West Virginia and Appalachia with the Department of the Air Force to develop the next generation of science and technology to advance national defense.

Dennis Andersh, president and CEO of Parallax, described some of the biggest challenges of running a nonprofit, such as name recognition.

“One challenge is people understanding who you are and what you do, because we are different and are trying to create something unique in the center of the country and the Midwest,” Andersh said.

Another challenge the company faces is the financial aspect, according to Andersh. For a nonprofit to be successful, the revenue must equal the expense. There is no opportunity for profit, so managing the business and avoiding a negative deficit is of the utmost importance.

When starting up Parallax two years ago, Andersh found it critical to lay out a plan for the first five years of the company, and to garner good board members. In the past 12 months, Parallax has added national board members from all over the country with different skill sets and backgrounds, which has helped grow and establish the organization’s prominence.

When speaking about other nonprofits, Andersh gave this advice: “Focus. Don’t try to boil the ocean and do everything for everybody. Pick up particular areas and focus on laying out a good, strategic plan.”

Parallax also received an accolade from the DBJ earlier this year by being named one of Dayton’s Best Places to Work. The organization was named a Best Place to Work due to its staff engagement, team effectiveness and other workplace best practices.

Jess Pacheco, marketing and communications director of Parallax, believes that the

greatest aspect of working with the organization is the people.

“The best part about working at Parallax is collaborating with smart and driven individuals from all walks of life,” Pacheco said. “I learn from them every day, and they inspire me to aim high and think outside of the box when problem solving.”

Parallax’s services include helping small businesses connect with academic institutions, conducting training and education programs, and running the Ohio Federal Research Network, which helps to better connect universities and small businesses to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and NASA Glenn Research Center. Ohio has funded \$50 million over the last six years to the Ohio Federal Research Network, which has financed 35 projects across the state.