

“Innovation Unleashed - Opportunities Abound”

Eventbrite: <https://mn-entrepreneur-kick-off.eventbrite.com>

Website: www.mnentrepreneurs.org

- 7:30 Coffee, Tea, Juice & Bagels**
- 8:00 Welcome, Recognitions and Introductions**
Rick Brimacombe, **Club E/Brimacombe Associates**
Andrew Donahue, **SBDC**, recognize **Southwest Initiative Foundation**
Todd Williams, **Scale Bank**
William Bojan, Dean of the School of Business, **Crown College**
- 8:10 Opening Keynote – Kendall Qualls, Executive Faculty in Residence, Crown College**
- 8:25 Founders Panel – “Identifying an Opportunity and Pursuing It” –**
Jessica Cooley, Executive Director **Schulze School of Entrepreneurship, UST**
Matt Thielen – Co-Founder Circular Sands
Gabriel Riegert – Co-Founder Convertica
John Costello – Founder West Metro Solutions
Matthew Klosky – Director, **Kabara Institute, SMU**
Lori Ryan, **Lorignite** –
Highlight Entrepreneur Bazaar participants: Casey Allen, Matthew Versaggi, REM5 Studios and
Cohosts **EdNorth** and **Code Savvy**, together with Dan McCreary
- 8:50 Stretch Break**
- 9:00 The Juncture of Innovation & Entrepreneurship - MN Opportunities**
George Taylor, **Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, SMSU**
Hempcrete - Construction Industry Opportunities & More – Harold Stanislawski, **AURI**,
The Hydrogen Energy Economy - Implications & Community Opportunities – Rolf Nordstrom, **GPI**
- 9:35 Supporting Doers – Founder to Founder Startup Guidance for Veterans & Featured Founders**
Jay Sancheti, **Bunker Labs**, Matt Frakes and Peter Mogck, Paddle North
- 9:45 Space Exploration Opportunities Unique to MN and Local Tourism Ecosystems**
Jerry Covington, **MI**, CanAm Space Alliance and Logan Erdmann, Tallgrass Tackle
Locating and Growing a business – The Economic Developers Role & Partnerships
Jolene Foss, **Wright County Economic Development Partnership**
Katie Kalkman, **Impact Hub**
- 10:00 When Need Meets Opportunity - Founders Panel**
Kailin Oliver, **MN Cup** & WE – highlight Featured Founders and the Entrepreneur Bazaar
Introduce: Meredith Englund, Camperoni, Jen Roth, Wise Blue Yonder, Amy Perrill, The Widow
Collaborative, Wendy Wiesman, Ready. Set. Pivot., Summer Song, Omi Live
- 10:30 Meet Featured Founders, Sponsors, and MN Entrepreneur Network Kick-off Cohosts!**
Rob Cimperman, **Launch MN** – Innovation Grants, Launch MN Hubs, Entrepreneur Bazaar Welcome!

10:35 Entrepreneur Bazaar

OFFICE HOURS - Professional Guidance, Insights, Information and Connections

Targeted Time with Casey – Casey Allen, Lifter Award Recipient
Targeted Time with Matthew – Matthew Versaggi, Technology Over the Horizon
Startup, Location & Financing Coordination – DEED, SBDC & SBA
Business Formation Guidance – Legal Corps
Employee Ownership – Kirsten Kennedy, MNCEO
Own Your Market – Sales, Marketing, Process – Craig Espelien, 1201 Partners
Discover Opportunities – Open/Upcoming Applications – MN Cup, gener8tor
Launch MN Hubs & Resources – Forge North/Greater MSP, E1/Redwing Ignite, Fastlane94/GSDC

SHOWCASED TECHNOLOGIES & FEATURED FOUNDERS

Showcased Technologies

Generative AI in the Classroom, **EdNorth** and **Code Savvy**
AR/VR Integration Experience – REM5 Studios
CanAm Space Alliance, **MI** and **Infinity Robotics**
AURI – Agricultural Utilization Research Institute and **GPI** – Great Plains Institute

Featured Founder Companies, Sponsors & Cohosts

Camperoni
ILT Academy
Tavolo
Wise Blue Yonder
All Clean Food
Naturally MN
Ready. Set. Pivot.
Lorignite
The Widow Collaborative
The Impact Hub
Red Wing Ignite
Nivoso and Alure LLC
Atland
Convertica and West Metro Solutions
Bunker Labs and Paddle North
SMSU Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Armor321, Tallgrass Tackle LLC, and Teco
Applied AI
Wright County Economic Development Partnership
Explore Design
Lab651
Scale Bank
Schulze School of Entrepreneurship – UST
The Plum Catalyst

11:45 Entrepreneur Bazaar – Closes

11:55 Lunch and Noon Program Choices

A. Join Cohost Club E – Cybersecurity for Your Business Panel (3rd Floor)

Rick Brimacombe – **Brimacombe Associates**

Panel: Jeremy Swenson, Abstract Forward Consulting & Karen Andersen, Tech Architect

B. Governors/Hearth - Data/ML/AI/Quantum/Nano/XR Opportunities Discussion (3rd Floor)

Justin Grammens – **Applied AI & Lab651**, Nick Roseth - **Explore Design**, Matthew

Versaggi – Versaggi Information Systems, LLC, Dan McCreary – Tiger Graph, Lori Ryan –

Lorignite, Arun Batchu – Gartner Research VP, Dave Neville – **Infinity Robotics**, Dan Atkins – MinneAnalytics

C. Audubon – Employee Ownership - More than Cooperatives and an Exit Strategy! (3rd Floor)

Kirsten Kennedy, **MNCEO**, Ernest Grumbles, **Grumbles Law**, Char Vrieze, Cooperative Development Services, Fred Caslavka, Landscape Structures, Inc.

D. Library – Founding Success and Funding Stories (2nd Floor)

Growing a Business with SBA funding - Brian McDonald, **SBA** and Geri Aglipay, Regional Administrator SBA

The Swannies’ Success Story - 2,500 Locations and Revenue to Match! – Matt Stang, Co-Founder and moderated by Christine Beech, **Red Wing Ignite**,

Founding, Funding and the Future! – Tavolo Founders: Abdi Hassan, and Salman Elmi and moderated by Nick Tietz, **ILT Academy**, and

The MSP Equity Initiative presented by Megan Baniecek, **gener8tor**

1:00 Noon Lunch Programs Conclude

1:15 Reconvene and Lifter Award Presentation – Jeffrey Robbins – **AngelPolleNation** and Lois Josefson

1:25 Business Growth – Insights into Choosing Financing

Casey Allen, Enterprise Rising, Sara Russick, **Gopher Angels**, Max Minakov – Nivoso

1:45 Business Growth - Licensing & Partnering with Giants

Allison Hohn, **Naturally MN**

Jason Dayton – Minneapolis Cider Co. – “The Cidery” and Laura Meemken – All Clean Food

2:05 Business Growth – Operations Matter

Shane Ericson, **Traction Capital** and Matt Thielen, Aspiring Financial Professional

2:25 Why Today Matters – Patrick Donohue, **Hill Capital**

2:30 Close – Thank You – Jen Roth, **EO**

2:35 Presenter Reception and Connecting

3:00 Reception closes

