

# 14<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Entrepreneur Kick-off

Schulze Hall and Auditorium  
University of St. Thomas – Minneapolis Campus  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

- 12:00 Registration and Networking with Co-hosts and Sponsors
- 12:30 Welcome Lyle Wright – SBDC
- 12:35 Introduction Patrick Donohue – EO
- 12:40 Keynote ***The Entrepreneurial Mindset Advantage***  
**The HIDDEN LOGIC that Unleashes Human Potential**  
Gary G. Schoeniger – Founder & CEO  
Entrepreneur Learning Initiative (ELI)
- 1:00 Founders Forum Danielle Campeau – University of St. Thomas  
Nick Tietz – ILT Academy  
Lisa Finck, Rainbow Hair Hats Christine Metzko – Initiator Fellows  
Funwi Tita, Better Greens LLC Missy Meidinger – Wright Cnty
- 1:25 Building an Ecosystem Jason Amundsen Valarie Lockhart– Red Wing Ignite  
Financing Operations Locally Laid Egg Company Kailin Oliver – MN Cup  
Water Now
- 1:40 Founding and Scale-up Financing Todd Williams – Scale Bank  
Structuring and Funding Transitioning Brian McDonald – SBA  
Kirsten Kennedy – MNCEO  
Rick Brimacomb – Brimacomb
- 2:10 Entrepreneurship by Acquisition Jay Sachetti – IVMF (Bunker Labs)
- 2:15 Introductions and Networking Announcements Matthew Thielen – Northwestern Mutual
- 2:30 (Optional) – Expert AMA - Conversations Schulze Auditorium  
AI Applications, Robotics, Data, XR, Software Development, IP, Cybersecurity,  
Financing, Strategic Growth, Exits, Operations, Purchasing, Marketing, Resources  
Lab651  
Bryan Kravis - Grumbles Law  
Ben Ihde - Greater MSP  
Dave Neville - Minnesota Innovates
- Featuring 20+ Experts – See the [Presenter Tab](#)**
- 3:20 Reconvene
- 3:25 Introduction of Founder Insights Emily McCarthy – Applied AI  
Josh Braaten – Daisy Rob Cimperman – Launch MN  
Cihan Behlivan - BETA

3:45	Dr. Elizabeth Klodas – Step One Foods	Shannon Schlecht - AURI Christiaan Engstrom – Bullpen! Kate LaBrosse – Naturally MN Katie Hjelmstad Severt – Let’s Talk Women
4:15	Lifter Award	Lois E. Josefson – GMDS
	David and Sara Russick	
4:25	Ecosystem Discussion with Lifter Awardees	Patrick Donohue – Hill Capital David & Sara Russick – Gopher Angels Rick Brimacombe – Brimacombe Al Cornish – gener8tor Southwest Initiative Foundation
4:55	Closing and Announcements	Chris Holland – Crown College
5:00	Reception & Light Buffet	
5:30	Conclusion	