



Your Launchpad to GROWTH in 2026!

Schulze Hall, University of St. Thomas

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

www.mnentrepreneurs.org and [Eventbrite Registration](#)

Morning Session - Schulze Auditorium

8:00 Registration Opens & A Special Time for Attendee, Sponsor and Cohost Conversations

8:40 Convening and Welcome – [UST - Danielle Campeau](#)

8:45 Introductions and Sharing of Kick-off History & the Day's Opportunities – [Hill Capital – Patrick Donohue,](#)

8:55 Creative Wealth Solutions – [Matthew Thielen and Micaiah Ferguson](#)

9:00 Opening Keynote: “Your Vision – Your Team – Your Legacy” – [Ross Bernstein](#)

9:25 **Business by the Numbers** – Fed. Tax Code & St. Law Changes and their Business Strategy Implications
[Fergus Falls Economic Development – James Leiman, Hill Capital – Nick Ehret, LegalCORPS – Francisco Martinez, Scale Bank – Todd Williams](#)

10:00 Break

10:15 **From Research to Revenue** – Steering through Disruption to Positive Ends - in Ag, Food and Healthcare
[AURI – Shannon Schlecht, Naturally Minnesota – Allison Hohn, Hormel Institute – Gail Dennison, StableFeed - Mary Hartman](#)

10:55 **Employee Ownership and Community Impact** – [MN Center for Employee Ownership – Kirsten Kennedy, Landscape Structures - Fred Caslavka, Creative Wealth Solutions – Matthew Thielen, Micaiah Ferguson](#)

11:25 **MN Accelerators & Featured Startup Showcase Announcements** – [MNEN – Lois Josefson, MN Cup – Kailin Oliver](#)

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12:00 to 12:30 [Start-up Company Showcase](#) – Schulze Auditorium - [MN Cup – Kailin Oliver](#)
[Enkrypticom – Huxley Westemeier, TailorEDU – Shannon Seavers, StableFeed – Mary Hartman, Food For Health – Adam Southam, Firnela – Sam Mars, FanSpark – Sean Williams](#)

Afternoon Session - Schulze Auditorium

GROWING TO SCALE with Ecosystem Insight and Support!

12:40 Reconvene and Introductions – [Brimacomb – Brian Berg, Scale Bank – Todd Williams, Lab651- Piers Concord](#)

12:55 Technology Keynote – Applied AI – Molly Doyle

“The AI Arena and Its Potential” - Matthew Versaggi – WH Presidential Innovation Fellow, Special AI Cohort

1:15 Keynote Discussion – Exploring MN AI Arena Opportunities – Minnestar – Meg Steuer, Mesa – John Moroney, MinneAnalytics – Arun Batchu, Minnesota Innovates – Dave Neville, HealthcareMN – Mary MacCarthy, Lab651 – Piers Concord

1:45 Transition Guidance – MTN – Val Lockhart

1:50 – 3:20 Breakout Sessions – [Session Details](#) within Tracks are reflected below this full-day Agenda

Track One – Positioning SaaS Companies to Scale - Experience MN Emerging Software Advisory Mentorship

Track Two – Integrating the AI Stack - From Solopreneur to Production Floor

Track Three – Navigating Life Transitions – Identifying Opportunities and Business Pathways

Track Four – Sales, Marketing, and Financing – Your Doorways to Growth

3:20 Transition

Closing Session – Schulze Auditorium

3:30 Reconvene and Introduction – Minnesota Innovates – Dave Neville

Lifter Award Presentations - “Living Our Legacies” Lois Josefson

Lifter Awardees

Justin Grammens – Lab651 & Dan Atkins – MinneAnalytics

**3:55 Next & New Horizons [Featured Founders Showcase](#) – Mentors – Paul Taylor, Mary MacCarthy
Featured Founders - Molly Clarke – Taking Stock Foods, Jason Eland – Pitch and Rudder, LLC,
Eugene Alvey – Swinergy, Jacob Baumler – CoachAir**

4:30 Closing – EO – Lisa McEllistrem

4:40 A RECEPTION FOR CONNECTING – A Fine Opportunity!

5:30 Doors Close

Breakout Sessions

Track One: Positioning SaaS Companies to Scale - Experience the MN Emerging Software Advisory (Rm 127)

1:50 Operating Processes and Team Culture in Preparation for Rapid Growth

MN Emerging Software Advisory – John Moroney and Chris Heim, Minnestar – Meg Steuer

2:40 Cap Table Ownership Structure DOs & DON'Ts for Scaling

MN Emerging Software Advisory – Dan Kinsella, Hill Capital – Patrick Donohue, Mary MacCarthy – Jazz Ventures

Track Two: Integrating the AI Stack – From Solopreneur to Production Floor (Schulze Auditorium)

1:50 Preparing Your Company to Leverage & Benefit From the Impact of AI Integration on Business Operations

MinneAnalytics – Dan Atkins, Minnesota Innovates – Dave Neville, Lab651 – Piers Concord, South Central College – George Taylor, Scale Bank – Todd Williams

2:40 Beyond the Hype – What AI Can Do For Your Business Today

MTN – Val Lockhart, Applied AI – Molly Doyle, Featured Presenter – Dave Mathias, Featured Presenter – Michael Hands, Featured Presenter – Lori Ryan, Featured Presenter – Sowmya Podila

Track Three: Navigating Life Transitions – Identifying Opportunities and Business Pathways (Rm 252)

1:50 Veterans, Doers, Founders, & Funders Make Connections, Share Insights & Explore Opportunities

Featured Presenter – Jay Sachette, Featured Presenter – Paul Riedner, Featured Founder – Eugene Alvey, Featured Founder – Jason Eland, EO – Lisa McEllistrem, Grumbles Law – Bryan Kravis, Fergus Falls ED – James Leiman, Southwest Initiative Foundation – Scott Marquardt, Creative Wealth Solutions, Scale Bank

2:40 Discover Business Growth Resources and See Communities in a New Way – Meet Greater MN !

Wright County ED Partnership – Missy Meidinger, Sherburne County ED – Brian Fleming, Owatonna Area Business Development Center – Sean Williams, MNCEO – Kirsten Kennedy, LegalCORPS – Francisco Martinez, South Central College – George Taylor, Grumbles Law – Bryan Kravis, SBDC

Track Four – Sales, Marketing, and Financing – Your Doorways to Growth (Rm 255)

1:50 Successful Sales & Marketing on a Stretched Budget

Brimacomb – Brian Berg and David Auclair Anderson, Featured Presenter – Craig Espelien

2:40 Financing Sources for Companies Across their Growth Stages

Scale Bank – Todd Williams, Hill Capital – Nick Ehret, Southwest Initiative Foundation – Scott Marquardt, DEED Business Advisory – Maddy LeClaire, Silicon Prairie Capital Partners – Cedric Long, Scale Funding