



FLYWHEEL

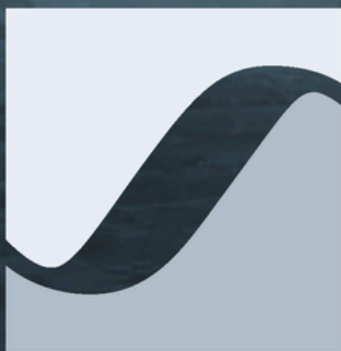
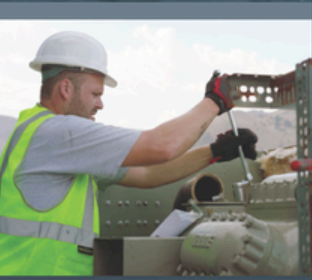
investment conference

May 21 - 23
2025

Wenatchee
WA

Washington's Meeting
Place for Entrepreneurs
and Investors





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WELCOME TO THE FLYWHEEL CONFERENCE



Dr. Sue Kane
CEO

Welcome to Flywheel. Here entrepreneurship, innovation and regional pride meet to spark new ideas and partnerships. What began in 2017 as a pilot event now stands as one of Washington's premier gatherings of founders, investors and community leaders. Since our first check in 2018, we have invested \$1.5 million in twelve companies and opened doors to fresh possibilities.

As NCW Tech Alliance serves six counties in North Central Washington, we see Flywheel as both a celebration of our mission and a catalyst for economic growth. This conference shines because of our sponsors, volunteers, speakers and investors. Thank you for bringing your energy and expertise. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and members I invite you to connect, collaborate and build the future together.

Dr. Sue Kane



Jenny Rojanasthien
Director of
Entrepreneurship

The partnership between NCW Tech Alliance and the Flywheel Angel Network allows us to bring together investors and founders to fuel innovation, build relationships, and support economic growth. Each year, the Flywheel Angel Network raises a new conference fund to invest in the winner(s) of the Flywheel Conference. Investments in the annual fund start at \$6,000, making it a great way for new angel investors to write their first checks. If you're an accredited investor, we invite you to join the fund in 2026. Email me: jenny@flywheelconference.com

A special thank you to our 2025 Flywheel Conference Fund Members for your investment, time, and support of this year's event. I also want to thank you for being here—I hope you enjoy everything Flywheel 2025 has to offer!

Jenny Rojanasthien

FLYWHEEL CONFERENCE PORTFOLIO

					
2018	2019	2020	2021	2021	2022
					
2022	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024

PRESENTING SPONSORS



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MEDIA PARTNER



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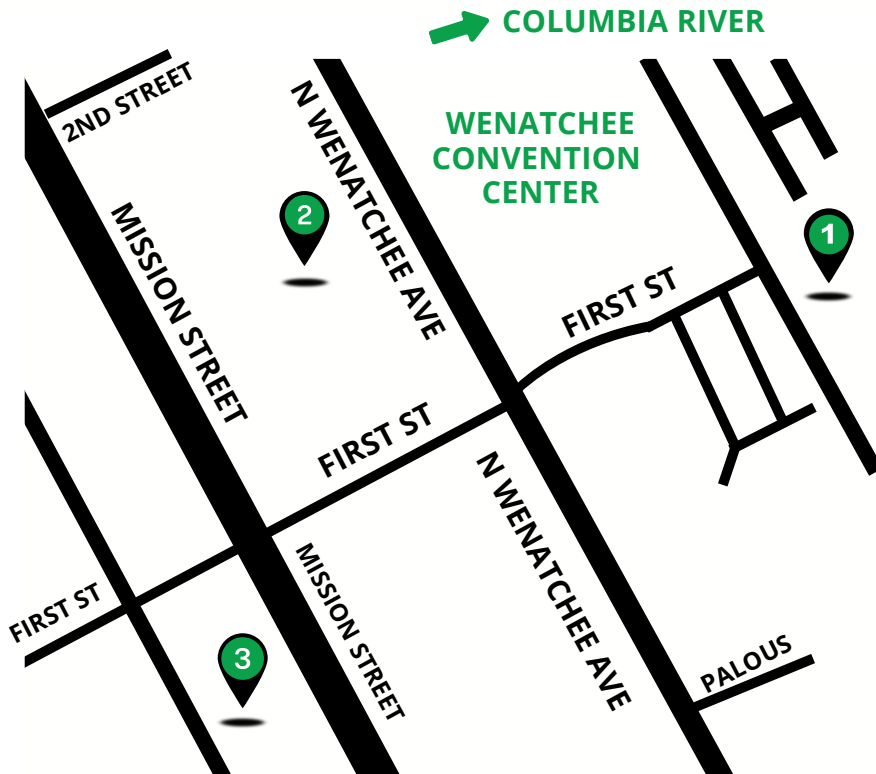


ADVOCATE SPONSORS



TOAST AROUND TOWN | SPONSORED BY: **AEM** Movement

OUR PLANET, ONE CHANCE!



We've reserved three venues for your enjoyment, with free food and beverages at each location. You will need to wear your lanyard with your name badge in order to enter each location.

1. Rail Station & Ale House:

29 N Columbia Street

2. Watermill Winery on the Ave:

118 N Wenatchee Ave

3. Pinnacle Beerworks:

18 N Mission Street

MEETING AND WORKSPACE AT MERCANTILE



Need a place to work, meet, or recharge?

Our friends at Mercantile are offering free or discounted coworking day passes for Flywheel attendees at their Ellis-Forde location:

14 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Show your Flywheel name badge at the front desk between 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM to access:

- Free coworking day passes for Top Six finalists and all conference speakers
- 50% off day passes for all Flywheel attendees
- 50% off conference room bookings – *call ahead to check availability*

Whether you need to catch up on emails or host a quick meeting, Mercantile has you covered—right in the heart of downtown.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 21: WELCOME TO WENATCHEE

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM **GUIDED HIKE UP SADDLE ROCK** | Trailhead: 1130 Circle St, Wenatchee
Guided hike with Wenatchee Outdoors. This is a 3-mile hike with 900' in elevation gain.

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM **WELCOME RECEPTION** | Circle 5 Winery: 3400 10th St SE, East Wenatchee
Network with investors and entrepreneurs while enjoying wine and views of the Columbia River.

THURSDAY, MAY 22: MAIN CONFERENCE DAY

*Events from 9:00AM - 5:00PM are held in the Wenatchee Convention Center Grand Apple Ballroom
121 N Wenatchee Ave. Park in the back of the building on Columbia Street and enter from there.*

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM **EXHIBITOR BOOTH VIEWING** | Grand Apple Ballroom
Meet with startups, professional services providers, and more!

10:00 AM - 10:45 PM **ENTREPRENEUR PATHWAYS** | Grand Apple Ballroom
Entrepreneur Pathways: How Universities Spark Innovation. Learn how Washington Universities foster entrepreneurship and startup programs. Featuring: Gliding Ant Ventures, University of Washington, and Western Washington University.

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM **MAKING DEALS IN WASHINGTON** | Grand Apple Ballroom
Making Deals in Washington: How Investors Are Powering Startups. Meet the investors making deals for founders in Washington State, from Tri-Cities to Seattle. Featuring: Alliance of Angels, Fuse, Fuse Fund, and Tri-Cities Angel Alliance.

12:00 PM - 1:10 PM **FARM TO TABLE LUNCHEON** | Grand Apple Ballroom
Farm to Table Luncheon: AgTech Innovators Shaping the Future, sponsored by Freestone Capital. Enjoy a buffet lunch and networking. Hear from the game-changing leaders in AgTech innovation. Featuring: Carbon Robotics, Voyager Capital, and innov8.ag.

1:45 PM - 2:25 PM **WOMEN IN AI** | Grand Apple Ballroom
Women in AI: Leading the Next Frontier. Learn about the AI ecosystem in Washington State and how that compares across the US. Enjoy a discussion on how women-led startups are pioneering the future of the AI economy. Featuring: WTIA, Certifi AI, and Barclo Venture Studios.

2:25 PM - 3:05 PM **THE CHARGE AHEAD** | Grand Apple Ballroom
The Charge Ahead: Powering the Future of Energy. The changing landscape in the way we source and fuel our homes, cars, and businesses. Featuring: Group14 Technologies, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), and Chelan County PUD.

MAY 22 CONTINUED

3:20 PM - 4:00 PM EMERGING MARKETS IN AEROSPACE | Grand Apple Ballroom

Markets in Aerospace: Reshoring and Resupplying for Growth. How can Washington’s aerospace startups and manufacturers scale in a shifting global landscape? Featuring: Stoke Space, PacAero, and Central Washington University.

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM TOAST AROUND TOWN | SPONSORED BY AEM ENERGY

Network and pub crawl your way through beautiful downtown Wenatchee! We've rented three venues for your enjoyment, with free food and beverages at each location: Rail Station & Ale House, Watermill Winery on the Ave, and Pinnacle Beerworks. See detailed map on page 3.

FRIDAY, MAY 23: TOP SIX COMPETITION + KEYNOTES

Events from 8:30AM - 1:00PM are held at the Wenatchee Convention Center and PAC.
121 N Wenatchee Ave. Park in the back of the building on Columbia Street and enter from there.

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM EXHIBITOR BOOTH VIEWING | Fuji Gala Hall

9:00 AM - 10:35 AM TOP SIX COMPETITION + SLUMBERKINS KEYNOTE | PAC Theater

Watch the first three finalists compete: Pioneer BioFuels, NewGEM Foods, and Grace & Able. Hear keynote speech from Callie Christensen of Slumberkins.

10:50 AM - 12:00 PM TOP SIX COMPETITION + BARCLO VENTURES KEYNOTE | PAC Theater

Hear keynote speech from Sierra Clouse of Barclo Venture Studios. Watch our second set of Top Six finalists compete: OoNee, LensBase, and MarineSitu.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM WINNER CELEBRATIONS | Fuji Gala Hall

Enjoy appetizers and refreshments as the winner(s) of \$200,000 are announced live!

FAN FAVORITE VOTING

Vote for your favorite company to win the \$5,000 Fan Favorite Award

Voting ends Friday, May 23 at 12:00 PM



Grace & Able
CEO: Sarah Dillingham



LensBase
CEO: Mark Morarie



MarineSitu
CEO: James Joslin



NewGem Foods
CEO: Matthew de Bord



OoNee
CEO: Aaron Huang



Pioneer Biofuels
CEO: Michael Sheehan

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AI today.**

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GRACE & ABLE

Founded by arthritis patient Sarah and hand therapist Trevor, Grace & Able serves women with chronic joint pain, a rapidly growing \$2 billion US market largely ignored by competitors. Our FDA-registered, reimbursable, patented, class 1 medical devices relieve pain and swelling, yet look and feel like comfortable apparel to maximize patient dignity and confidence. Following features with Good Morning America and Good Housekeeping, we're growing at an impressive 300% year-over-year. We invite you to join us in our mission to empower people with arthritis.



Grace & Able empowers women living with chronic joint pain, so they can keep doing the things they love.

CEO Sarah Dillingham

EMAIL
sarah@graceandable.com

LOCATION Snohomish, WA

INDUSTRY Consumer Product

STAGE \$500K - \$1M in TMM Revenue



Company Website

LENSBASE

Less than 2% of the world population wears contact lenses, but more than 4 billion people could. Difficulty with insertion is the number one reason people quit using contacts or avoid them altogether. LensBase offers patients a comfortable, fast, clean, and affordable insertion experience they can take anywhere. Already available in over 750 clinics, this little device is making a big impression with patients, doctors, and contact lens manufacturers.



Simply the smartest way to put in your contacts.

CEO Mark Morarie

EMAIL
info@thelensbase.com

LOCATION Seattle, WA

INDUSTRY Medical Devices & Equipment

STAGE Full Product Ready



Company Website

MARINESITU

MarineSitu provides real-time underwater monitoring solutions that combine rugged, low-cost hardware with AI-powered software to support performance, compliance, and environmental goals. Spun out of the University of Washington in 2016, MarineSitu has logged 4,000+ deployment days, achieved 95%+ detection accuracy, and cut data processing time 20-fold. Serving marine energy, aquaculture, hydropower, and infrastructure, we help customers make smarter, faster decisions for a sustainable Blue Economy.

MarineSitu provides AI-driven underwater monitoring to power smarter decisions in the Blue Economy.

CEO James Joslin

EMAIL

james@marinesitu.com

LOCATION Seattle, WA

INDUSTRY

Maritime/Shipping Marine

STAGE \$500K - \$1M in TMM Revenue



Company Website

NEWGEM FOODS

NewGem Foods, the patented creator of wraps made from real fruits and vegetables, is redefining flour-free eating with shelf-stable, allergen-friendly products that deliver a full serving of produce in every wrap. Designed for the 80% of consumers managing dietary restrictions, NewGem offers a delicious, low-calorie solution in the \$300B+ wellness food market.

NewGem Foods creates patented, 100% plant-based wraps and snacks made from real fruits and vegetables—flour-free, low-calorie alternatives to bread and tortillas.

CEO Matthew de Bord

EMAIL

mdebord@newgemfoods.com

LOCATION Allyn, WA

INDUSTRY Food & Beverage

STAGE \$500K - \$1M in TMM Revenue



Company Website



TOP SIX FINALISTS

OONEE

OoNee is vertically integrating the harvest, ranching, and processing of overpopulated sea urchins that are devastating Pacific Northwest kelp forests. Its mission is to build local and regional resilience in the blue economy by training commercial divers and operators to collect these undernourished urchins and rapidly fatten them for high-end markets. Using proprietary, land-based modular raceways built inside shipping containers, OoNee can transform starved urchins into premium seafood products within weeks.



Turning an ecological threat into premium seafood through land-based sea urchin ranching that restores kelp and scales globally.

CEO Aaron Huang

EMAIL

aaron@oo-nee.com

LOCATION Edmonds, WA

INDUSTRY Agriculture

STAGE Prototype Ready



Company Website

PIONEER BIOFUELS

Pioneer Biofuels is a Spokane-based clean technology startup improving the economics and sustainability of anaerobic digestion. Its proprietary booster system increases biogas yields by over 50% while simultaneously reducing capital and operating costs for digesters. By unlocking more energy from agricultural waste, Pioneer makes renewable gas production significantly more profitable for dairy farms and wastewater treatment, ensuring viability even for small-scale facilities. The company's mission is to accelerate the transition to resilient, waste-based energy infrastructure.



Pioneer Biofuels turns organic waste into profit, boosting biogas output by 50% and cutting costs by 25%.

CEO Michael Sheehan

EMAIL

mike.sheehan@biogasbest.com

LOCATION Spokane, WA

INDUSTRY Agriculture

STAGE Prototype Ready



Company Website



NCW TECH ALLIANCE

INSPIRE | INVEST | EMPOWER

JOIN AS A MEMBER

At NCW Tech Alliance, our members are at the heart of driving technology adoption and fostering innovation across our region. By becoming a member, you are not just supporting an organization—you are investing in the future of our community.

BENEFITS

INSPIRATION AND LEARNING

Access resources and events, and learn from technology and industry leaders.

BUILD NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Join a diverse community of professionals and participate in events designed to inspire collaboration and growth.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support initiatives that drive technology adoption, community development, and economic growth.

RECOGNITION AND BENEFITS

Gain visibility, enjoy event discounts, receive recognition, and celebrate shared successes.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Fund local programs that promote digital inclusion, education, and entrepreneurship.

PERSONAL CONNECTION

Engage as a volunteer in meaningful activities that support our shared mission.

LEVELS & PRICING

BUSINESS

FOUNDER: \$230
1 - 10 employees

SMALL: \$315
11 - 30 employees

MID-SIZE: \$460
31 - 50 employees

LARGE: \$575
50+ employees

INDIVIDUAL

COMMUNITY MEMBER: \$110
No business affiliation

FLYWHEEL ANGEL INVESTOR: \$500
No business affiliation

NCW Tech Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
All memberships are considered a charitable donation.

**CONNECT
WITH US**



www.ncwtech.org
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THANK YOU ANNUAL PARTNERS



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



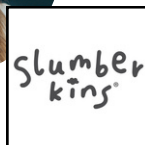
Leonard Backus, 2025 Fund Manager, Flywheel Angel Network

Len's career is the definition of a startup sales guy. He was part of over a dozen technology companies building and leading sales teams starting with the personal computer era. Two of his companies did IPOs and he has been on both sides of multiple M&A deals. Today he is an angel investor with an active fractional VP sales practice based in central Washington State. Len earned a BS and MS, respectively, from the University of Washington and the University of Southern California, where he was a Hughes Masters Fellow. He was VP International for two public companies and maintains a global network of influencers in emerging technology markets and sales channels.



Paul Carlisle, Director, FUSE SPC & Entrepreneur in Residence, WSU, FUSE

Paul is a business and community advocate, working to build sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems in eastern Washington State. For twenty years he has worked with businesses in their digital transformation strategies. After a successful startup and exit to private equity in 2021, Paul began work to build a more supportive and sustainable atmosphere for entrepreneurs to launch and thrive in eastern Washington. In conjunction with Washington State University and FUSE Business and Community Accelerator, he works to bring knowledge, resources, and networks to help business and organizations succeed.



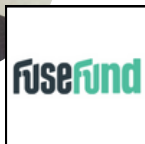
Callie Christensen, Co-Founder + Chief Brand Officer, Slumberkins

Callie Christensen is a passionate brand builder, educator, and creative visionary helping redefine emotional wellness for children everywhere. As the Co-Founder of Slumberkins—the leading emotional wellness brand for families—Callie blends her background in special education with entrepreneurial spirit to craft meaningful stories, products, and experiences that nurture emotional development in children. Slumberkins has grown from hand-sewn beginnings into a trusted household name, with over 1.5 million books sold, a successful direct-to-consumer business, a school-based SEL curriculum, and a hit mixed-media preschool series produced by The Jim Henson Company, now streaming on Apple TV+. Named a 2023 Inc. 200 Female Founder and an Emmy-nominated co-executive producer, Callie continues to lead Slumberkins with heart, innovation, and purpose.



Sierra Clouse, Managing Partner, Barclo Venture Studios

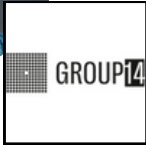
As Managing Partner at Barclo Venture Studios, Sierra Clouse leads the strategic direction and operational execution of a venture studio purpose-built for the next era of computing. Barclo specializes in launching and scaling deep tech startups at the intersection of quantum technologies, advanced computing, and AI-native infrastructure. Clouse's role spans founder-level involvement across portfolio companies, capital strategy, and ecosystem development—bringing together top-tier researchers, operators, and capital partners to de-risk breakthrough innovation and accelerate commercialization. She works hands-on with technical founders from day zero, helping to shape product-market fit, go-to-market execution, and scalable company architecture. Sierra is also a mom of three kids and loves to cook.



Marty Conger, Managing Partner, Fuse Fund

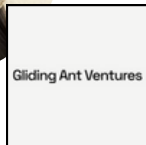
Marty Conger retired from PNNL after 42 years, the last 12 years as Chief Financial Officer. Marty now supports entrepreneurs through the Board of Fuse which is devoted to creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Tri-Cities. Fuse tapped Marty to establish and lead Fuse Fund, the first and only startup fund focused entirely on startups in and around the Tri-Cities, raising over \$2M from local investors. Since launching, Fuse Fund has invested in six startups. Marty received the Sam Volpentest Entrepreneurial Leadership Award and was named one of the Tri-Cities People of Influence for 2025 by the Tri-Cities Journal of Business for his work supporting startups. Marty is a pilot and is currently building a high-performance Velocity experimental aircraft.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Henry "Rick" Costantino, PhD, CTO & Co-Founder, Group14 Technologies

Rick Costantino is CTO and co-founder of Group14 Technologies, the world's leading commercial manufacturer and supplier of advanced silicon battery technology for consumer electronics, electric vehicles and more. Group14 is ushering in the silicon battery era with its transformational material, SCC55™, which is bringing the power of AI to the forefront of personal computing and our increasingly mobile lives. Group14 is rapidly scaling its global manufacturing capabilities to help address the growing demand for energy. Rick has more than 30 years of experience developing stable, high-performance products at the molecular level, spanning chemical and biopharmaceutical industries for companies such as Genentech, Alkermes, and Natestch. Rick holds more than 60 U.S. patents and has more than 50 publications.



Virginia Emery, Partner, Gliding Ant Ventures

Virginia is a founding partner of Gliding Ant Ventures, a PNW venture studio. GAV builds and invests in the companies our world needs to thrive in the year 2075, with specific interests in deep tech startups working in agtech, energy, maritime, materials science and climate tech. Prior to Gliding Ant, Virginia was founder and CEO of Beta Hatch, a FOAK sustainable waste-to-value agtech company with technology ranging from CRISPR to robotics. Beta Hatch won the Flywheel Investment Conference prize in 2019, and was a proud employer in Cashmere, WA.



Nathan Foster, Vice President and General Manager, PacAero

Nathan serves as Vice President and General Manager at PacAero, leading operations and strategic growth for the Wenatchee-based aerospace manufacturer. With over 25 years at PacAero, Nathan has extensive experience across business development, programs leadership, and systems engineering. His career has been defined by building strong customer relationships and driving innovation in aerospace manufacturing, with expertise spanning applications engineering, proposal development, and lean operations. Nathan's leadership continues to position PacAero at the forefront of precision aerospace solutions for critical industries worldwide.



Kelly Fukai, CEO, WTIA

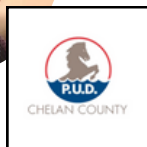
Kelly is the Chief Executive Officer at the Washington Technology Industry Association. She brings over 25 years of experience in leading and working with diverse groups with divergent interests in the development of collaborative and comprehensive plans and policy that grow necessary infrastructure, enhance economic and workforce development, and support community interests. She also has extensive experience in government and public affairs, economic development, communications, strategic management and planning, analysis and accounting. She has previously worked at Avista, the Pinnacle Marketing Group, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Spokane International Airport. She was appointed by Governor Inslee to the Washington State Transportation Commission and serves as the Chair of the WSU Spokane Advisory board.



Austin Guyette, Partner, Voyager Capital

Austin joined Voyager in 2018 after working on enterprise technology investments at M12, Microsoft's venture fund. At Voyager, Austin plays a key role in identifying new investments and supporting the growth of Voyager's portfolio across the Pacific Northwest. Austin is a board member for Voyager Fund V portfolio companies, Averlon and Sofy. Austin is also an advisor for Voyager's Fund V pre-seed companies ficc.ai and PreemptiveAI. He is also responsible for Voyager's pre-Seed investments in Brevy, OverlandAI, and Pictory. In his spare time, you can find him with his dog in the Cascade Mountains skiing, climbing, and mountain biking.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Kirk Hudson, General Manager, Chelan County PUD

Kirk has 28 years of experience at Chelan County PUD and in January 2022, became the General Manager. In his career, Kirk has been responsible for generation & transmission, reliability compliance, engineering, project controls, electric distribution, warehousing, fleet services, water/wastewater, wholesale telecommunications, natural resources, and more. Kirk is the Chairman of the Board for the Hydropower Research Institute, a non-profit company formed in 2018 by Chelan County PUD and Southern Company, with the mission to ensure hydropower continues to be the premier carbon-free, electricity-generating resource by leading the digital transformation and technological advancement.



Melissa Hutchins, Founder & CEO, Certifi AI

Melissa is an experienced product leader with a proven track record in building highly technical products for Fortune 500 companies, specializing in API development and AI/ML capabilities. She left her corporate career in pursuit of providing a solution that actively protects victims of cyber abuse and spreading of mis/disinformation, an issue incredibly close to her heart. As a survivor of a severe cyber harassment and cyber stalking case, she has dedicated her efforts to implement safeguards on advancing AI, with the mission to detect, distinguish and verify the authenticity of digital content.



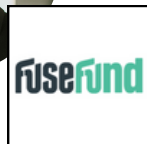
Anne Kerker, Senior Director Human Resources, Stoke Space

Anne Kerker is the Head of Human Resources at Stoke Space, where she was brought on to build and scale the company's HR function in support of its rapid growth and bold mission. She leads all people-related initiatives, with a focus on finding and developing talent, fostering culture, and driving the development and execution of Stoke's talent strategy. She brings over two decades of HR leadership across diverse industries including environmental consulting, luxury travel, energy distribution, and manufacturing. She has served on several nonprofit boards and was honored as one of South Sound's 40 Under 40. Outside of work, Kerker channels her energy into competitive sheepherding, where she competes in trials with her Border Collies.



Christina Lomasney, Chief Commercialization Officer for the Office of Collaboration and Commercialization, PNNL

Christina Lomasney is a veteran entrepreneur with two decades of experience in technology innovation and commercialization. She joined Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as the director of Commercialization in 2021, focusing on industrial partnerships to expand the impact of PNNL's science and technology. She is a physicist with a deep background in materials science and electrochemistry and was named one of the World's Most Promising Women Entrepreneurs by Fortune in 2015. In 2007, Christina founded Modumetal, Inc., a Seattle-based company that develops and commercializes a novel class of nanostructured materials that resist corrosion better than steel. While at Modumetal, Christina raised more than \$100 million in equity and non-equity funding and created partnerships with several Fortune 500 companies. She served as the company's president and CEO until 2020.



Rocco Luongo, PE Investor, Fuse Fund and Tri-Cities Angel Alliance

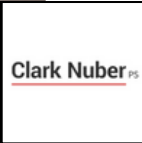
Rocco is an entrepreneur, engineer, TEDx speaker, and investor with a passion for innovation and community. As a devoted husband and father, Rocco brings a people-first perspective to everything he does—from raising his family to building companies. Rocco's technical expertise includes international engineering projects, high-precision manufacturing, and systems integration. He is named on multiple patents and has served clients across a range of industries, including aerospace, defense, energy, and food production. Rocco has founded several successful companies and led multiple exits, navigating the full arc of the entrepreneurial journey from startup to scale to sale. Rocco was part of the team who established the Fuse Fund and is an advisor for the Tri-Cities Angel Alliance. He enjoys camping, biking, skiing, and Washington wine.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Steve Mantle, CEO and Founder, Innov8.ag

Steve Mantle is the Founder and CEO of innov8.ag, a Washington-based agtech company helping growers, breeders, and advisors turn field data into real-world decisions. After nearly two decades in tech leadership at Microsoft, Steve launched innov8.ag to empower agriculture with AI, automation, and actionable insights. His team partners with innovative farms across North America on everything from yield forecasting to autonomous harvesting. A tri-citizen of Australia, Canada, and the U.S., Steve brings a global lens to local ag challenges and is a passionate advocate for the future of farming.



Matt Medlin, Shareholder, Clark Nuber

Matt has been involved in angel and venture investing personally for ten years and as an advisor for over 25 years. He is an LP in several angel-driven funds, including SeaChange, VentureUs, Ensemble, and First Row, in addition to being a direct investor in several companies. Matt has served as a board observer and advisory board member in angel and venture-backed companies, including one that had a successful exit in early 2023. His 'day job' is as a CPA and member of the team leading Clark Nuber's practice focused on angel and venture-backed enterprises in AI, software and game development, telecom, product innovation, cryptocurrency, and health sciences. In addition, Matt serves on faculty at University of Washington teaching graduate and undergrad entrepreneurial finance. Matt is on the boards of the Technology Alliance and Ada Developers Academy and the audit committee of Gesa Credit Union.



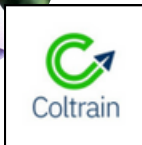
Paul Mikesell, CEO and Co-Founder, Carbon Robotics

Paul is the founder and CEO of Carbon Robotics. Paul has deep experience founding and building successful technology startups. Paul co-founded Isilon Systems, a distributed storage company, in 2001. Isilon went public in 2006 and was acquired by EMC for \$2.5 billion in 2010. In 2006, Paul co-founded Clustrix, a distributed database startup that was acquired by MariaDB in 2018. Prior to Carbon, Paul served as Director of Infrastructure Engineering at Uber, where he grew the team and opened the company's engineering office in Seattle, later focusing on deep learning and computer vision. Paul holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Washington. He was named the 2024 Foster School Of Business UW Entrepreneur of the Year and previously was recognized with the 2023 UW Alumni Impact Award.



Shay Myers, Co-Founder, Carbon Robotics

Shay is a third-generation farmer, entrepreneur, and the CEO of Owyhee Produce, a vertically integrated farming operation known for innovation in the fresh produce industry. With roots in the Treasure Valley of Idaho and Oregon, Shay leads a year-round farming, packing, and marketing enterprise focused on onions, asparagus, sweet corn, and watermelons. An early adopter of agtech solutions, Shay is a vocal advocate for sustainable and efficient farming practices. His collaboration with Carbon Robotics—a pioneer in autonomous weed control—represents a new frontier in agriculture, where AI, automation, and laser technology intersect to solve labor challenges and promote regenerative practices. Shay brings firsthand experience implementing these tools in real-world farming operations. Shay is also a nationally recognized ag influencer, using platforms like TikTok and LinkedIn to bring transparency to food production and bridge the gap between consumers and growers.



Gautam Nayak, CEO and Co-Founder, Coltrain

Gautam is the Co-Founder and CEO of Coltrain, a HIPAA-compliant clinical collaboration platform connecting clinicians across healthcare systems to improve patient care, especially in rural communities. A practicing cardiologist with Kittitas Valley Healthcare in Ellensburg, WA, Gautam created Coltrain to solve communication gaps in fragmented systems. Today, the platform supports over 1,500 clinicians nationwide. A former U.S. Navy physician, Gautam also serves as an assistant clinical professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine and is the immediate past president of the Washington American College of Cardiology chapter.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Rob Ogburn, Executive Director, Central Washington University

Rob Ogburn is Executive Director of Business and Community Services at Central Washington University, leading initiatives that drive economic development and innovation across the state. Before joining CWU in 2019, Rob spent over 23 years in management and executive roles with tech startups, midsize firms, and Fortune 100 manufacturing companies, working on global strategies for Boeing and other industry leaders. At CWU, he has taught across supply chain, marketing, entrepreneurship, and leadership topics, and now oversees BCS programs focused on entrepreneurship, sustainable innovation, and regional competitiveness with support from the National Science Foundation and state partners.



Samantha Ogle, Director, University of Washington, Foster School of Business, Master of Science in Entrepreneurship

Samantha is driven to help encourage and celebrate students and their pursuit to create. Having worked with startups at UW for over 15 years, she thrives on being a spark for entrepreneurship education, experiences, and opportunities. Seeking to bring higher education to founders, she helped spin out the Master of Science in Entrepreneurship at the UW Foster School of Business. Some say you don't need a degree in entrepreneurship. Why not learn the lessons of those who have gone before you, help de-risk your ideas, and accelerate your network? Sam is scrappy, resourceful, and has been growing and iterating the program ever since. Obsessions: Birding road trips to Skagit Valley. Digging in the garden. Building and sharing playlists (mixed tapes, anyone?) and making music—Play it again, Sam!



Angie Parker, Executive Director, Alliance of Angels

Angie is a former Air Force aviator and Chief of Staff, bringing over a decade of experience in startup operations. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Alliance of Angels (AoA), where she actively fosters entrepreneurship in the Pacific Northwest. In her role at the AoA, Angie identifies, interviews, and coaches founders, preparing them for pitches to her nearly 200 angel investor members. In addition to her work at the AoA, Angie teaches a class on idea validation at Venture Mechanics, is a prolific guest lecturer for entrepreneurship courses at the University of Washington, mentors veterans, and volunteers with Culture in Sports—an organization dedicated to identifying and addressing toxic cultures within sports organizations.



Phontel Shami, Program Management Executive Director

Phontel is an accomplished aerospace executive with extensive experience leading multi-billion-dollar programs in commercial aviation, space systems, and advanced technologies. She specializes in integrating complex technologies, supply chains, and teams under aggressive timelines, turning complexity into executable strategy. Phontel serves on the boards of the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance and Seafair and holds an Executive MBA from the University of Washington. Her leadership philosophy centers on transparency, data-driven execution, and empowering teams during times of transformation.



Dr. Meg Weber, Senior Instructor and Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Community Outreach, Western Washington University

Dr. Meg is a holistic entrepreneur developer and a certified coach, specializing in supporting students and fostering community growth through peer-based encouragement and support. Her expertise extends into business counseling, coaching, technology, and conducting impactful research on impostorism, neurodivergence and belonging, making her a versatile and empathetic figure in academic and entrepreneurial circles. Her leadership extends to serving as the Chair on the board of the US Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Minority and Women's Special Interest Group (SIG), where she works to create inclusive and supportive environments for budding entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds.

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www.quarkconstructs.com

Rebalance Energy
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www.rebalancenrg.com

Roundtable Innovation Corporation
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Industry: Internet/Web Services
www.roundtablehub.com

SelfFull
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Industry: Education
www.selffull.io

SettleKing
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Industry: Fintech
www.settleking.com

SoundGTM
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symphonie.ai
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Industry: Software
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www.workboxdelivers.com

Workese (dba Sage Reception)
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Industry: Telecommunications
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Yak
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