



FLYWHEEL

investment conference

MAY 19-21, 2026 • WENATCHEE, WA

DISCOVER WHAT'S POSSIBLE.



Microsoft





Innovation Drives Opportunity

Businesses in Washington are evolving—and so are the job opportunities for workers. Microsoft partners with local businesses, educators, and nonprofits to create pathways for students and workers to advance their tech and AI skills. Opportunity expands when we all work together to prioritize access to new skills. When we do that, we ensure everyone can participate in our region's economic growth.

WELCOME TO FLYWHEEL! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.



DR. SUE KANE

CEO, NCW Tech Alliance

Dr. Sue Kane

NCW Tech Alliance hosts the annual Flywheel Investment Conference to fuel innovation, inspire entrepreneurship, and strengthen Washington's economy. Flywheel reflects the mission we live every day. NCW Tech Alliance is where people and technology meet opportunity, and this conference puts that mission into motion with purpose.

Flywheel brings together founders, investors, business leaders, education partners, and community members from across the state who believe in what can happen when people choose to build something better. It reminds us that innovation is not only about technology. It's about people, their ideas, their courage, and their willingness to work together.

Rooted in North Central Washington since 2017, Flywheel has grown into a statewide space for connection and possibility. It is a place where ideas gain momentum, where partnerships form, and where people, capital, and opportunity intersect. The future feels a little closer because we are shaping it together. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, speakers, investors, founders, and partners for bringing your energy and your belief in what is possible.

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SIGNATURE SPONSOR



THE SALCIDO
GROUP OF COMPANIES

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P2XSTUDIO

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Clark Nuber PS



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



The 2026 Flywheel Investment Conference is supported with Chelan County Lodging Tourism funds.

ADVOCATE SPONSORS



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ward media

01



MAY 19 TUESDAY

LATINO FOUNDER DAY

12:30PM - 6:00PM | PYBUS PUBLIC MARKET EVENT CENTER

Latino Founder Day is a Spanish-language pre-conference program designed to elevate and support Latino entrepreneurs who are building and growing businesses. It provides a platform for sharing ideas, learning from experienced founders, and connecting with mentors, investors, and partners, ensuring entrepreneurs have the necessary resources to succeed.

MAY 20 WEDNESDAY

STUDENT PITCH COMPETITION *Presented by The Salcido Group of Companies*

9:00AM - 1:30PM | PYBUS PUBLIC MARKET EVENT CENTER

The Flywheel Student Pitch Competition puts student innovation on stage, highlighting emerging entrepreneurs from across Washington. From high school innovators to graduate-level researchers, these student founders bring strong ideas, real solutions, and exciting venture potential to the Flywheel stage. Plus, hear from other founders scaling their companies.

EXPLORE THE GREATER WENATCHEE VALLEY

GUIDED SADDLE ROCK HIKE

3:00PM - 4:30PM | TRAIL HEAD | 1155 CIRCLE ST, WENATCHEE

Enjoy fresh air, famous views, and great company on a guided hike along the newly rebuilt Saddle Rock East trail. Led by TREAD Board Members, this casual group hike is a chance to experience one of Wenatchee's most iconic outdoor areas while connecting with fellow attendees outside the conference setting.

GUIDED TRADES DISTRICT TOUR

4:30PM - 5:30PM | TRADES DISTRICT | 7TH ST SE, EAST WENATCHEE

Get an inside look at one of the region's exciting economic development projects with a guided tour of the Trades District led by the Chelan Douglas Port Authority. Attendees will learn how this emerging district is creating space for business growth, workforce development, and new opportunities.

WELCOME RECEPTION

5:30PM - 7:30PM | CIRCLE 5 WINERY | 3400 10TH ST SE, EAST WENATCHEE

Gather for an evening of connection, conversation, and community as Flywheel attendees come together in a relaxed social setting with beautiful, sweeping views of the Wenatchee Valley and Columbia River. Enjoy hosted heavy appetizers and drinks while meeting founders, investors, speakers, sponsors, and leaders from across Washington.

Please note: The Welcome Reception is open to All-Access ticket holders only.

MAY 21 THURSDAY

DOORS OPEN: CHECK-IN + EXHIBITOR BOOTHS *Presented by Central Washington University*

8:30AM - 9:00AM | FOUNTAIN LOBBY | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Start the day with coffee, conversation, and time to explore the Flywheel exhibitor booths before the main program begins. Check in, connect with fellow attendees, and visit with a mix of founders and sponsors showcasing ideas, companies, and resources from across the innovation ecosystem.

EARLY-STAGE INVESTMENT COMPETITION (TOP SIX)

9:00AM - 12:00PM | THEATER | NUMERICA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Experience one of Flywheel's signature events as six Washington startups take the stage to pitch for a \$150,000 investment and other prizes. The morning will also feature keynote presentations that bring fresh perspectives on entrepreneurship, investment, and the ideas shaping what's next.

WELCOME REMARKS

9:00am | Dr. Sue Kane, CEO, NCW Tech Alliance

KEYNOTE: THE AGE OF THE IDEA PERSON

9:10am | Amit Rikhi, CEO, Treehouse Studios

TOP SIX FINALIST PITCHES

9:30am | BOVI.TECH, Precision Quantomics, and Optimly
Investor Panel: Len Backus, Virginia Emery, and Will Little

BREAK

10:15am | Coffee, conversation, and more pitches ahead.

KEYNOTE: FORECASTING THE FUTURE

10:30am | Sean Kelly, CEO, Amperon

Followed by a Fireside Chat moderated by AEM Movement
Student Energy Managers, Abby Rau and Marisol Nava

TOP SIX FINALIST PITCHES

11:00am | Remmie Health, Reclaim Metals, and Subi
Investor Panel: Brian Eastman, Cynthia Brown and Mark Simms

CLOSING REMARKS

11:45am | Jenny Rickel, COO of Native Network and Flywheel Angel Investor

LUNCH + NETWORKING *Presented by Freestone Capital Management*

12:00PM - 1:15PM | GRAND BALLROOM | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Take a break for lunch, connect with fellow attendees, and spend time visiting the exhibitor booths featuring founders, sponsors, and ecosystem partners. At 12:30 PM, hear a special update from Jerred Mace, CEO and Founder of OneCourt and a 2024 Flywheel Investment Winner, as he shares what's happened since taking the Flywheel stage.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS: INNOVATION IN ACTION *Presented by Holland & Knight*

1:30PM - 4:30PM | FOUNTAIN ROOMS | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Choose from a lineup of focused conversations designed to spark new thinking, practical insight, and meaningful connections. These sessions will explore real-world innovation across industries, investment, entrepreneurship, regional growth, and the partnerships helping move ideas forward across Washington. *More details about each breakout session are available on page 14.*

AWARDS PARTY + CELEBRATION *Presented by Clark Nuber*

6:00PM - 8:00PM | PYBUS PUBLIC MARKET EVENT CENTER

Come together for an evening of celebration, connection, and community as we recognize the people and ideas moving innovation forward. Enjoy hosted heavy appetizers, a hosted bar, and a festive social atmosphere with other attendees, founders, investors, sponsors, and partners as we announce this year's award winners and celebrate the momentum built throughout the conference.



*Building the Future
...with the Power of Community*

THE
SALCIDO
GROUP OF COMPANIES

TheSalcidoGroup.com
#people&relationships

Freestone
FREESTONECAPITAL.COM

It's 2028 and your company shares
are worth \$50 million...

Learn the 5 things we believe most entrepreneurs
overlook that could cost them millions.

Freestone is a wealth and asset management firm with over \$14 billion in AUM*. Founded in Seattle in 1999 following our founder's successful angel investment in [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), we help founders make the most of what they've built—today and for the future.

Let's talk

SEATTLE | SAN FRANCISCO | SANTA BARBARA | SILICON VALLEY | ANCHORAGE



*AUM as of 12/31/2025. The firm's AUM calculation has not been compiled, reviewed or audited by an independent accountant. AUM for the firm's most recent quarter is based on the firm's internal books and records and subject to adjustment when financial statements for the quarter end are finalized.

CONECTANDO IDEAS, CULTURA Y EMPRENDIMIENTO.

CONNECTING IDEAS, CULTURE, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Latino Founder Day celebrates the ideas, stories, and entrepreneurial spirit of Latino founders across Washington. This Spanish-language pre-conference program creates space for entrepreneurs to learn from experienced business owners, connect with mentors and partners, and explore practical tools for growing their businesses. Whether attendees are launching a new idea, navigating the realities of growth, or looking for the right connections, Latino Founder Day is designed to inspire action and build community.



BIANCA PENUELAS
Managing Partner,
Prospera Ventures



CINDY GONZALEZ
Owner and CEO,
The Bloom Flowery



LAURA BRUDERS TORRES
Owner and President,
Neu Flessenow Cellars



JOSUE RAMIREZ
Founder and CEO,
Fusion Air Lighting
Partners



JUAN BARRAZA
Executive Director,
Latino Founders



MAYRA GARCIA
Founder,
Viva Creative Studio



RODRIGO CARRIEDO
CEO and Co-Founder,
Propio



SILVIA VILLANUEVA MAR
Founder,
The Cleaning Box

MODERATOR



MAYTE TARIN
Co-Founder, Leading
Connections Consulting

DIGITAL SKILLS ACCELERATOR

As part of Latino Founder Day, we are proud to spotlight graduates of NCW Tech Alliance's **iLumina Digital Skills Accelerator**, supported by Microsoft and the Alcoa Foundation. These entrepreneurs are applying new digital tools to strengthen their businesses, reach customers, and grow with confidence.

The nine-week program supports Latino-owned small businesses through hands-on training in website creation, online tools, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. The first cohort graduated 28 local entrepreneurs representing 19 small businesses in Malaga and surrounding communities.



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE GRADUATES, OR GO TO:**

[NCWTECH.ORG/PROJECT-ILUMINA](https://ncwtech.org/project-ilumina)



WHERE STUDENT INNOVATION TAKES THE STAGE.

WELCOME REMARKS

9:30am | Dr. Sue Kane, CEO, NCW Tech Alliance

KEYNOTE: AN ENTREPRENEUR'S JOURNEY

9:45am | Ryan James, PhD
Co-Founder, CEO, CTO, Dopl Technologies

STUDENT FOUNDER PITCHES

10:00am | BioBead and OhmLife Insoles

BREAK

10:30am | Coffee, conversation, and more pitches ahead.

FIRESIDE CHAT: SCALING WITH PURPOSE

10:50am | Edwin Eaton, Founder, iPro Building Services
Alex Eaton, Operations Manager, iPro Building Services
Moderated by David Mabee, NCW Tech Alliance

STUDENT FOUNDER PITCHES

11:10am | Virtual Track Club and Crosshatch

KEYNOTE: A FOUNDING STORY

11:35am | Jerred Mace, Founder and CEO, OneCourt

LUNCH + NETWORKING + VOTING

12:00pm | Enjoy lunch, visit the booths, and make connections. Submit your vote by 12:45pm!

AWARDS PRESENTATION

1:00pm | Who will win the cash prizes? We will announce the Judges' Choice Award and Audience Choice Award winners.

AN ENTREPRENEUR'S JOURNEY

Ryan James will share a practical perspective on the entrepreneurial journey. Drawing from real experiences building in healthcare, Ryan will explore how taking action creates clarity, how defining a long-term vision shapes decisions, and how persistence is essential when facing setbacks.



RYAN JAMES, PHD
Co-Founder, CEO, CTO
Dopl Technologies

A FOUNDING STORY

Jerred Mace will give a behind-the-scenes look into the creation of OneCourt, covering everything from concept and prototyping, team building, lucky breaks, failures, first revenue, investment, and growth. He will provide insights into some of his best decisions and what he would do differently.



JERRED MACE
Founder and CEO
OneCourt

SCALING WITH PURPOSE: BUILDING BEYOND THE EXPECTED

Entrepreneurship often starts with a single opportunity, but lasting impact comes from what you build over time. Drawing from Edwin's journey as an entrepreneur and the next-generation perspective Alex brings to the conversation, this fireside chat will explore what it means to grow beyond expectations, create opportunity for others, and carry entrepreneurial lessons forward.



EDWIN EATON
Founder,
iPro Building Services



ALEX EATON
Operations Manager,
iPro Building Services

MODERATOR



DAVID MABEE
Marketing Director,
NCW Tech Alliance

MEET THE STUDENT FOUNDERS



VOTE NOW!

Closes at 12:45pm
on May 20



RENEE DAVIS
Co-Founder, BioBead

BioBead is a biodegradable hydrogel that protects and delivers beneficial microbes to the root zone, rebuilding soil biology that crops depend on.

Renee is a doctoral researcher at the University of Washington.



SUZANNE O'KELLEY
Founder, Crosshatch

Crosshatch helps AI-accelerated software teams make product decisions they can defend, hand off cleanly, and learn from over time.

Suzanne is an MS in Entrepreneurship candidate at the University of Washington.



ELLIOT TIEGEL
Founder, OhmLife Insoles

OhmLife Insoles harvest the mechanical energy of every footstep and store it onboard, efficiently charging your GPS, PLB, or radio without adding weight to your pack.

Elliot is a high school student at Cascade School District.



CARIANN BRYANT
Founder, Virtual Track Club

Virtual Track Club gives track athletes clear training, technique guidance, and recruiting support year round, helping them improve consistently without expensive club teams or guesswork.

Cariann is an undergraduate at Central Washington University.

MODERATOR



JENNY ROJANASTHIEN
Atlas Fare / Top Thai

MEET THE JUDGES



ESMERALDA RAMOS
Microsoft



IAN WEYENBERG
NetDocuments



JUDI KUNTZ
NCW Tech Alliance



TERRY WARD
Ward Media



Doing the Work – Student Energy Managers



Wenatchee's Student Energy Managers (SEM) are trained student professionals who deliver the required Clean Buildings compliance requirements, save energy and costs for commercial buildings.

Just ask a few of our clients:

- NCW Libraries
- Confluence Technology Center
- Town Toyota Center
- Wenatchee School District
- Wenatchee Valley College
- Saddle Rock Church
- Columbia Valley Community Health

Building a Legacy.

Our Community-Based Program

SEM is a community-based program that is focused on Tier 2 buildings, supporting them in meeting the Clean Buildings Performance Standard. We currently serve organizations in the Wenatchee area and are expanding the program across Washington State. We partner with student organizations such as FCCLA, FBLA, and DECA to support our outreach efforts.

A Trusted Resource for the Washington Department of Commerce

At no out of pocket cost, we are committed to help every Tier 2 building in Chelan County achieve compliance, avoid the \$0.30 per sq ft fine, and reduce its monthly energy use and expense. If you want our help, please contact us – we are here to serve you.



25%+
Energy
Reduction

\$108K
Fine
Avoided

\$0
Out of
Pocket



13%+
Energy
Reduction

\$17K
Fine
Avoided

\$0
Out of
Pocket

More About Our Services:

aemmovement.com

✓ CBPS compliant

✓ No capital investment required

INNOVATION STARTS HERE.



AMIT RIKHI

Founder and CEO,
Treehouse Studios



THE AGE OF THE IDEA PERSON

We are entering the age of the idea person, where the distance between imagination and execution has never been shorter. This keynote explores how entrepreneurs can turn insight into action faster than ever before. Using examples from venture building, corporate innovation, and breakthrough ideas emerging in unexpected places — this session will show why innovation is no longer confined to traditional hubs.

ABOUT AMIT RIKHI

Amit Rikhi is an entrepreneur, innovation executive, and Founder & CEO of Treehouse Studios, where he builds companies at the intersection of culture, influence, and corporate innovation. He has worked with athletes and entertainers including former NFL linebacker Lofa Tatupu and Apl.de.Ap, co-founder of the Black Eyed Peas, to create and scale new ventures. Amit previously served as National Vice President of Innovation at the American Cancer Society, where he led enterprise innovation initiatives. In 2026, he served as a Philippine government delegate at the World Economic Forum in Davos. He also serves on the board of Smart City Expo USA and is a judge for the Edison Awards.



SEAN KELLY

CEO, Amperon



FORECASTING THE FUTURE: BUILDING AMPERON FOR A CHANGING ENERGY MARKET

Energy markets are changing fast, and the need for smarter, more reliable forecasting has never been greater. Learn how Amperon grew from a bold idea into a company helping utilities, energy companies, and market participants make better decisions in an increasingly complex world. Sean will share his founder's perspective on spotting opportunity, learning from customers, building trust in a critical industry, and using innovation to solve real-world problems that affect all of us.

Following the keynote presentation, AEM Student Energy Managers will moderate a Fireside Chat with Sean to learn more about his entrepreneurial journey and the future of energy.

ABOUT SEAN KELLY

Sean Kelly is the Co-Founder and CEO of Amperon, an AI-powered energy forecasting and data analytics company. With a deep background in energy trading, Sean previously held roles at Tenaska, Lehman Brothers, EDF, and E.ON. While at EDF, he led the transition of two nuclear plants into the NYISO market, and later spearheaded the buildout of E.ON's North American trading desk. He also co-founded Bridge Power Consulting, later acquired by Albireo Energy. At Amperon, Sean has transformed his market expertise into an AI-powered, data-driven platform that provides the most accurate energy forecasts. Today, Amperon is a trusted partner to power and utility companies, delivering demand, renewable generation, and price forecasts.



ABBY RAU

Student Energy Manager,
AEM Movement



MARISOL NAVA

Student Energy Manager,
AEM Movement



LUCAS BUCKLAND
CEO & CO-FOUNDER

bolt-on vehicle innovation
BOVI.TECH



BOVI.TECH

SPOKANE, WA

BOVI's HERO (Human Enabled Remote Operation) systems combine bolt-on remote operation and AI safety systems to create a powerful AI Flywheel for wildfire vegetation management, fireline construction, and search & rescue.

The technology transforms existing mulchers, fireline construction equipment, and fast-response ground platforms into secure, remotely operated intelligent assets. Operating in smoke, steep terrain, and low-visibility conditions where classical autonomy struggles, BOVI trains advanced AI directly from expert human operational data. Each mission spins the AI Flywheel, continuously improving safety and semi-autonomous augmentation. This empowers a single Hero Operator to achieve superhuman levels of awareness, endurance, and scale across vegetation management, fireline construction, and search-and-rescue missions.

MEET THE TEAM

Connor Buckland
Co-Founder

Siddharth Mahesh
Hardware Robotics Engineer

KEY DETAILS

Founded: 2021

Primary Industry: Robotics

Stage: <\$1MM in TTM Revenue

Contact: lucas@bovi.tech



APURVA LUTY
CEO & FOUNDER



OPTIMLY



OPTIMLY

SEATTLE, WA

Optimly verifies and serves structured brand data to AI, so ChatGPT, Claude, and Perplexity get your brand right and are more likely to recommend you to your customers.

Buyers are shifting from Google to ChatGPT, Claude, and Perplexity to find and evaluate your business — and AI is probably misrepresenting you. Optimly is the trust layer that fixes this. Our solution structures and distributes your brand data to agents: the AI Brand Trust Registry makes you discoverable to AI agents (58K+ profiles), BrandVault publishes your attested brand facts, and Scout delivers that verified brand data to agents at point-of-recommendation to your customers. Our early customers, like Hal9, have seen a 16x improvement in AI-referred traffic, which converted at 4x the rate of organic search-referred traffic.

MEET THE TEAM

Anoop Dixith
CTO & Co-Founder

Anh-Kiet Ngo
Technical Advisor

KEY DETAILS

Founded: 2025

Primary Industry: Software

Stage: <\$1MM in TTM Revenue

Contact: apurva@optimly.ai

PRECISION QUANTOMICS

SPOKANE, WA

Precision Quantomics is developing a smarter approach to drug development to help address the nearly 90% failure rate across drug candidates.

Using an integrated in silico and advanced lab tools platform, the company delivers insights that help biopharma teams make better decisions earlier in development. Its capabilities span quantitative proteomics, biological reagents, and predictive in vitro testing to improve confidence in safety, metabolism, and translational relevance before costly late-stage setbacks occur. By combining computational and experimental strengths, Precision Quantomics aims to reduce time, cost, and risk while improving the likelihood of clinical success.

MEET THE TEAM

Dr. Bhagwat Prasad
Founder & Chief Scientific Officer

Christy Watson
VP, Research & Development

Edward Felt
VP, Business Development

KEY DETAILS

Founded: 2020

Primary Industry: Biotechnology

Stage: <\$1MM in TTM Revenue

Contact:
bmcbandara@precisionquantomics.com



**CHANDI
BANDARANAYAKA**
CEO



RECLAIM METALS

WEST RICHLAND, WA

Reclaim Metals uses AI-powered optical sorting to transform domestic aluminum scrap into high-value manufacturing feedstock, strengthening American supply chain resilience.

Reclaim Metals Inc. is a clean-technology startup revolutionizing the aluminum supply chain through AI-powered optical sorting. Every year, the U.S. exports 2 million tons of scrap—a \$2.3 billion lost opportunity—due to inadequate sorting. Our patent-pending "chemical fingerprinting" makes invisible alloy signatures visible to standard optical cameras, allowing our deep-learning models to sort scrap at industrial speeds with over 90% purity. We empower domestic recyclers with a \$0.60/lb value lift, transforming low-grade waste into high-value manufacturing feedstock. By keeping these resources onshore, we strengthen American manufacturing, reduce carbon emissions by 95%, and secure a more resilient domestic economy.

MEET THE TEAM

Yazdan Jamshidi
Co-Founder & CTO

KEY DETAILS

Founded: 2025

Primary Industry: Clean Technology

Stage: Product in Development

Contact: mefe@reclaim-metals.com



MERT EFE
CEO & CO-FOUNDER



RECLAIM METALS





JANE ZHANG
CEO & CO-FOUNDER



REMMIE HEALTH

SEATTLE, WA

Remmie Health uses a digital otoscope and AI decision support platform to enable convenient, accurate remote ENT diagnosis and monitoring, improving access, outcomes, and cost efficiency for families.

Remmie Health is transforming ENT care through a smarter, more accessible approach. By combining the Remmie 4 digital otoscope with an advanced AI decision support platform, it enables fast and accurate remote diagnoses in both real-time and asynchronous formats from anywhere. The solution supports early detection of conditions like ear infections, helping reduce unnecessary emergency visits and lower healthcare costs. With continuous monitoring and seamless access to care, patient outcomes improve alongside greater convenience, while a scalable ecosystem expands access and streamlines care delivery.

MEET THE TEAM

Elijah Tsai
Co-Founder

Aria Jiang
Marketing Manager

KEY DETAILS

Founded: 2020

Primary Industry: Healthcare Services

Stage: Full Product Ready

Contact: jane@remmiehealth.com



MICHELLE SCHUBERT
CEO & CO-FOUNDER



SUBI

WENATCHEE, WA

Subi uses modern AI tools to handle documents, tasks, and communications for real estate professionals, saving agents hundreds of hours and brokerages thousands of dollars.

Subi is the transaction genie for real estate professionals, built to simplify and streamline the entire transaction process. Today, millions of deals are managed through fragmented systems, manual workflows, and constant compliance risk. Subi replaces that process with a proactive system that executes the work for you—from data entry and document management to task coordination and client communications. Built by experienced operators, Subi saves agents hundreds of hours and reduces operational costs for brokerages, while helping teams stay compliant and close deals more efficiently. Early adoption has validated strong market demand and highlighted the widespread need for a solution like Subi.

MEET THE TEAM

Kristen Thompson
*Co-Founder & Operations,
Strategy & Real Estate Advisor*

Mark Schubert
Product Design & User Experience

KEY DETAILS

Founded: 2024

Primary Industry: Software

Stage: Product in Development

Contact: michelle@oksubi.com

ABOUT THE FLYWHEEL ANGEL NETWORK

The Flywheel Angel Network brings accredited investors together to invest in innovative, Washington-based companies through the annual Flywheel Investment Conference.

Each spring, members review startup applications, select the top finalists to pitch live on stage, and collectively invest in one or more companies at the conclusion of the conference. Flywheel offers investors a collaborative and rewarding experience that blends community, education, and impact.



BRIAN EASTMAN

2026 Fund Manager,
Flywheel Angel Network



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MEET THE 2026 FUND MANAGER

Brian, a UC Berkeley graduate, began his career with a turnaround and successful exit of a mobile automotive servicing startup. He founded Safeguard Advisors, aiding thousands of investors in accessing alternative assets like venture capital and digital currencies. After selling Safeguard in 2023, he now consults on alternative asset custody in retirement plans and helps institutions navigate market strategies and regulations. An active angel investor, Brian supports visionary founders with capital and strategic insights.

CONFERENCE PORTFOLIO

 2018	 2019	 2020
 2021	 2021	 2022
 2022/2025	 2023	 2023
 2023	 2024	 2024

WHO'S YOUR FAN FAVORITE?

Help choose this year's Flywheel Fan Favorite!

Each of our finalists has built something worth cheering for, and now it's your chance to show your support. Scan the QR code, cast your vote, and find out which finalist takes home the prize at the Awards Party.

Fan Favorite voting is open to conference attendees and supporters near and far. Over the past few weeks, finalists have been sharing this opportunity with their networks, inviting their fans, customers, friends, and followers to help build momentum for what they're building.

One vote per device. Voting closes at 5:00pm on May 21.



COMPETITION MODERATOR



JENNY RICKEL

COO, Native Network
Flywheel Angel Investor



SCAN THE CODE TO VOTE, OR GO TO:
[FLYWHEELCONFERENCE.COM/VOTE](https://flywheelconference.com/vote)

1:30PM – 2:20PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS: BLOCK ONE**PEOPLE, PIPELINE, PLACE: BUILDING INNOVATION-READY REGIONS**

FOUNTAIN ROOM 1 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

What does it take to help ideas grow into companies and regions grow into places where innovation can thrive? This conversation explores how founder support, commercialization pathways, and regional infrastructure work together to create the conditions for innovation, how emerging regions make strategic choices with limited resources, and why collaboration across sectors matters. Designed for founders, investors, business leaders, and public partners, this session invites those who help shape what comes next to see the role they play in making growth possible.

**ALANNA IMBACH**Executive Director,
Matchstick Lab**RICHARD HANOVER**Director of Business Development,
Port of Moses Lake**DAVE BARCOS**Executive Director,
North Bank Innovations**REBECCA LOVELL**

COO, Greater Seattle Partners

CUSTOMER DISCOVERY: BECOMING CUSTOMER FOCUSED

FOUNTAIN ROOM 2 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

In the customer discovery workshop, founders will learn to understand part of what investors mean by “too early.” Evan and Kia will show founders how to identify what must be true for their idea to become a scalable, investable business. Using a Lean Canvas, founders learn to map their key assumptions and test them through customer interviews with actionable, “Mom-tested”, question formats. This process shifts them from a product-first mindset to a customer-first approach grounded in real market evidence that can convince an investor that a founder has a business rather than a project.

**EVAN PONCELET**Executive Director,
Venture Black**KIA DAVIS**Principal, Flashpoint 100
Board Member, Venture Black

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS, OR GO TO:**

[FLYWHEELCONFERENCE.COM/2026-SPEAKERS](https://flywheelconference.com/2026-speakers)



STARTUP SHOWCASE: MEET FLYWHEEL SEMI-FINALIST COMPANIES

FOUNTAIN ROOM 3 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Get a fast-paced look at some of the promising startups in this year's Flywheel pipeline. In this high-impact breakout session, Flywheel Semi-Finalists will take the stage to deliver quick, compelling pitches that spotlight bold ideas, strong founders, and what could be next. The session will include time for attendee questions, giving you a chance to hear directly from founders and learn more about the opportunities they are building.

**ADAM MATHERLY**

Partner,
Holland & Knight

**DAN SCHAU**

CEO & Founder,
Ranger Comms

**BRIAN EASTMAN**

2026 Fund Manager,
Flywheel Angel Network

**KIM JOHNSON**

CEO & Founder,
Managed Health Connections

**CLEMENT UTUK**

CEO & Co-Founder,
Kednus

**SEEMA CLIFASEFI**

CEO & Co-Founder,
HaRT3S

2:30PM – 3:20PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS: BLOCK TWO
**INNOVATION HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT:
FROM INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

FOUNTAIN ROOM 1 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

What if some of the most interesting innovation opportunities are already around us? This conversation looks at how underused resources, rising operational pressures, and industrial inefficiencies can become the starting point for new business ideas, stronger partnerships, and long-term economic opportunity. Panelists will share real-world examples of how overlooked challenges can lead to new value, and what it takes to move those ideas from concept to implementation.

**ANDY WEINSTEIN**

CEO & Founder,
GODOT

**KORINA STARK**

Founding Partner,
Circular Spring

**JESSICA SHAW**

Deputy Public Works Director-
Utilities, City of Wenatchee

**RHYS ROTH**

Executive Director, Center for
Sustainable Infrastructure

FROM ALMOST OUT OF RUNWAY TO FIRST REVENUE

FOUNTAIN ROOM 2 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Early-stage founders often hear about growth, fundraising, and traction, but less about what it takes to lead when the path is unclear and runway is ending. In this session, Anya Smith shares the practical and leadership shifts that helped her company move from pre-revenue uncertainty to first revenue. Attendees will gain insight into how to identify real value, make harder decisions sooner, and level up as leaders so they can guide their companies through uncertainty with more clarity, resilience, and focus.



ANYA SMITH
Founder & CEO,
SelfFull, Inc.

WHAT MAKES A STARTUP WORTH BUILDING AND BACKING

FOUNTAIN ROOM 3 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

There are easier ways to make money than startups and angel investing. So why do people choose this path? In this candid, experience-based session, two founders turned investors share how early-stage companies actually get built and backed. We will explore what investors really look for beyond the pitch, why most deals never happen, and how decisions are made under uncertainty. This will be a conversation, not a lecture, with audience discussion woven throughout.



PHIL OHL
Managing Director,
Tri-Cities Angel Alliance



ROCCO LUONGO
Advisor,
Tri-Cities Angel Alliance

3:30PM – 4:20PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS: BLOCK THREE

IS MY STARTUP VENTURE FUNDABLE

FOUNTAIN ROOM 2 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

A highly interactive workshop designed to help founders assess whether their idea-stage or existing company meets the criteria for venture investment. You'll gain a clear understanding of what investors look for in venture-scale opportunities, along with direct feedback on how well your business fits that model, and actionable guidance on how to evolve your strategy if it doesn't yet align.



RON WIENER
CEO, Venture Mechanics

BUILDING THE FUTURE: AEROSPACE & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

FOUNTAIN ROOM 1 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Aerospace and manufacturing continue to play a major role in shaping Washington's economy, but they are also changing in important ways. This conversation will give attendees a closer look at where innovation is happening in these industries, what it takes to build and grow in this space, and why it matters for the future of our region and state. Through the perspectives of industry leaders, the session will explore both the opportunities and the realities facing companies, communities, and emerging talent.



JUSTIN MORIGEAU

Founder, The Embedded Leader
President, AeroTEC



PRIYANSHA BAGARIA

CEO & Founder,
Loopr AI



NATHAN FOSTER

Vice President & General Manager,
PacAero Wenatchee

BEYOND THE GARAGE: RETHINKING HOW STARTUPS GET BUILT

FOUNTAIN ROOM 3 | WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

Startups don't all begin in a garage, and they don't all need to start from scratch. Many founders overlook pathways that involve existing innovation, intellectual property, and commercialization systems because they seem too complex or too slow. In reality, these approaches can accelerate development and strengthen long-term advantage. This session challenges common myths that startups have to start from scratch, that IP is only a legal checkbox, and that a good idea alone is enough, offering a clearer view of how ideas move from discovery to real companies, and how founders can better leverage these often-underutilized paths.



JEREMY TAMSEN

Senior Director, Innovation &
Entrepreneurship, Washington State
University



PAUL CARLISLE

Sr Mgr for Entrepreneurship,
Pacific Northwest National
Laboratory / Washington State
University



JESSICA ROBERTO

Knowledge Economy Lead,
WA State Department of Commerce

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We congratulate this year's Startup Showcase semi-finalists for their entrepreneurial spirit and look forward to watching their great ideas grow.

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