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www.wisconsintechnologycouncil.com/events/earlystage

Wisconsin Early Stage Symposium will help emerging companies become ‘venture ready’

MADISON – Companies preparing to compete for private equity capital at the state, regional or national level should attend the first Wisconsin Early Stage Symposium, to be held on Oct. 19-20 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison.

Selected early-stage companies from Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest will be professionally “coached” by venture and service professionals, as well as veteran company executives with stories to tell. In addition to the hands-on instruction, the symposium will allow brief investor presentations for selected companies from all technology sectors.

The symposium's Oct. 20th agenda will feature an instructional track for invited early-stage companies from a mix of technology sectors, and will be led by Courtney Price and Mack Davis of the Denver-based VentureQuest LTD.

On Oct. 19th and 20th, the Symposium will feature “Elevator Pitch Olympics,” scored by members of the investment community, for selected companies that apply at www.wisconsintechnologycouncil.com/events/earlystage

The Wisconsin Early Stage Symposium evolved from the former Wisconsin Life Sciences & Venture Conference, which served the state and Upper Midwest technology economy for 20 years. Unlike the Life Sciences conference, this symposium is open to companies from all tech sectors – and beyond. With many tracks and panels to choose from, companies, investors and service providers can find great value in the conference, even if they don’t participate in the VentureQuest seminar.

Conference features include:
- A “venture readiness” workshop led by the founders of VentureQuest Ltd., a Denver-based firm with a national reputation for getting companies ready to compete for private equity investment dollars. VentureQuest helps organizations
create bottom line profits by capitalizing on developing people, market opportunities and new business ventures. VentureQuest guides organizations to realize the true top and bottom-line value of innovation to fuel an organization’s evolution. The firm works with and designs programs for high-growth companies, federal laboratories and universities worldwide.

- A “Power of Angel Investing” seminar for accredited investors who are angel investors or who may want to become angel investors. This is part of a series produced by the Wisconsin Angel Network and the Ewing Kauffman Foundation.
- A technology showcase by leading research institutions.
- Workshops on how to compete for federal SBIR and STTR grants, as well as a dinner honoring grant recipients.
- Two “Elevator Pitch Olympics” for qualified companies, with judges from the venture capital and angel investment communities.
- An up-close look at the work of the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority, which is authorized by federal and state law to oversee the issuance of federal income tax-exempt bonds by the private non-profit healthcare and educational institutions in Wisconsin. In 2004, WHEFA authorized nearly $1 billion in bond financings.
- Nationally renowned researchers such as Dr. Hector DeLuca, who will talk about his experiences with early-stage companies.
- Other nationally known speakers who have built businesses from the ground up, or whose organizations are devoted to entrepreneurial excellence.
- Panel discussions aimed at giving early-stage companies the tools they need to succeed.

The Wisconsin Early Stage Symposium is being co-produced by the Tech Council, which is the non-profit science and technology adviser to the Governor and the Legislature, and a number of statewide and regional partners.

Members of the steering committee include representatives of: The Wisconsin Innovation Network, the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs’ Network, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, the Wisconsin Small Business Innovation Consortium, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, Baird Venture Partners, Mason Wells, Venture Investors, Wisconsin Investment Partners, Frazier Technology Ventures, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, the Marshfield Clinic, the Medical College of Wisconsin, TechStar and a number of companies with a stake in Wisconsin’s high-growth economy.

- To learn more, please call 608-442-7557 or visit www.wisconsintechnologycouncil.com/events/earlystage
- For more information on the “Power of Angel Investing” seminar, call Joe Kremer at 608-442-7557 or visit www.wisconsinangelnetwork.com

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