



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Venture Club of Indiana to Host the “2019 Innovation Showcase”

“Where Capital Meets Innovation”

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - April 17, 2019 - The Venture Club of Indiana is proud to announce that the 11th Innovation Showcase will be brought back to the “stage” in Indianapolis on August 22nd.

The Showcase is Indiana’s largest, curated event for entrepreneurs, investors and supporters of the state’s vibrant startup-ecosystem. Twenty start-up companies selected through various regional competitions will pitch to win this year’s Showcase which includes prize money and in-kind gifts. In addition to the pitch competition, guests will have the opportunity to hear from prominent speakers, check-out exhibition booths for the featured companies and “stroll down memory lane” to catch up with the past Venture Idol and Innovation Showcase winners. Last year’s event drew over 250 attendees who saw Quarion Technology Inc. from Evansville win the grand prize of \$10,000. This year’s event is expected to draw up to 400 guests as plans have been made to expand on the Showcase’s growing popularity and venture interest.

To further leverage upon the Venture Club’s mission of ensuring a vibrant venture capital community in the state, the Showcase will be preceded by the Next Level Fund Annual Summit hosted by 50 South Capital, the program administrator for the Indiana Next Level Fund. Both events will take place at The Center.

The mission of the Next Level Fund is to make targeted investments in Indiana venture capital funds and Indiana businesses in order to generate a competitive investment performance, as well as, support increased entrepreneurship and innovation in the state. Venture capital firms from around the state, region and country are expected to be in attendance, along with distinguished guests that have played a vital role in creating the Next Level Fund.

While coordination and marketing for both events are separate, hosting them on the same day and location will put the 20 companies on stage in front of venture capital investors who can help them achieve growth and scale up plans along with the prize winnings thus creating, buzz, fervor and recognition to Indiana’s growing entrepreneurial and venture community.

The Board for the Venture Club, which is composed of several of the states’ leading venture capital firms, decided that it made sense to coordinate both events together. The goal of the Club is to create an organization and community “Where Capital Meets Innovation”.

“The Innovation Showcase following the Next Level Fund Summit will demonstrate our commitment to this effort”, says Travis Stegemoller, board member.

The day will begin at 8:00 AM as The Next Level Fund Annual Summit kicks off with an update of “The State of Venture Capital in Indiana”. A lunch break at 11:30 AM will facilitate the end of the morning session and the start of the Showcase festivities with a strolling lunch through the Showcase Expo. Afterwards, the 11th Innovation Showcase will begin at 1:00 PM with a featured keynote and the pitch competition as entrepreneurs vie for “the money”.

How impactful has the Showcase been to local entrepreneurs?

One only has to ask Jeff Ready, CEO of Scale Computing. He recounts October 28, 2008 when he won the Indiana Venture Idol Competition (predecessor to the Innovation Showcase), “I opened the bank account for Scale Computing with that \$10,000 check! It was the seed money for Scale Computing. “ Since then, Jeff has raised over \$96 million in venture funding for Scale with \$34.8 million in funding secured last October. Recently Scale entered into a global partnership with Chinese personal-computer maker Lenovo. With 2000 customers in 30 countries, Scale is the perfect example of success for all startup companies that pitch at the Showcase.

The Innovation Showcase will be held at The Center (6320 Intech Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana). Doors will open at 11:00 AM EST. For more information, please visit www.ventureclub.org.

There will be a limited capacity of 400 attendees. Secure your seat early to watch this amazing production “Where Capital Meets Innovation”! Anything can happen!!!!

Media Contact

Travis Stegemoller

Venture Club of Indiana

Email Address for publication: info@ventureclub.org

Phone Number: 317.231.7815

About Venture Club of Indiana

Venture Club of Indiana is a member-based, volunteer-led organization that thrives on the ideas and efforts of its members since its inception in 1984. As a catalyst for increased investing in Indiana business, the Venture Club of Indiana is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs, investors, and the professional community convene to network, creating opportunities for education and information sharing through its programs and monthly luncheon meetings. For more information about membership, please check our website at www.ventureclub.org.