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Startup Weekend; Hooking Up for Economic Growth

Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization (NIREC)

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The Startup Weekend, a national grassroots business-launching event, is coming to Northern Nevada, September 28-30, 2012. Startup Weekend Elko will connect local entrepreneurs, developers, designers and startup enthusiasts with mentors and resources for a weekend of sharing ideas, forming teams and launching startups. The weekend-long event will take place at the Great Basin College campus in Elko.

Whether participants found companies, find a cofounder, meet someone new or learn a skill outside the usual 9-to-5, they will be better prepared to navigate the chaotic and exciting world of startups.

"Many of us in Nevada had the rug swept out from under our feet the past few years and we’ve had to adapt; become innovative and entrepreneurial to survive,” said Daniel Herr, life-long Northern Nevadan, organizer of the event and a recent participant in the Las Vegas Startup Weekend. “Northern Nevada has a lot of hidden gems and I am really excited about bringing this fast-paced startup proving-ground to Elko. It will be great to bring entrepreneurs from many of Nevada’s smaller North-Eastern communities together.”

On Friday night, attendees will take the open mic to pitch their ideas to the group in 60 seconds or less. After groups form, the rest of the weekend will be spent formulating the most popular ideas – often web and mobile applications – with the help of mentors and seasoned startup entrepreneurs. It’s a 54-hour frenzy of business model creation, coding, designing and market validation. The weekend culminates with presentations in front of entrepreneurial thought-leaders, bankers, venture capitalists, and marketing and sales gurus, providing an opportunity for critical feedback.
“Startup Weekends are full of energy and creativity all focused around a model of ‘build and test as-you-go,’” says Shavonannah Tiëra, organizer of the July SWVegas weekend. “Roughly 80 percent of participants continue working with their team or startup after the weekend, and over 36 percent of participating groups are still going strong after three months.”

Software developers and designers as well as individuals with non-technical business skills (i.e., marketing & PR) are encouraged to sign up. Registration is open to everyone, though spots are limited to ensure a great experience. Registering costs $99, with discounted rate of $49 for students. For the best weekend of your entrepreneurial life, register online at elko.startupweekend.org.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: We invite you (and encourage you) to repost this article or any portion thereof to share the information with your audiences]

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Scientists and Technologists are Hooking Up for Economic Growth

For the first time, Nevada’s science and technology professionals are gathering on October 25 for the SciTech Hookup. While it’s not the latest dating service for the brainy set, the event is a marriage, of sorts.

Organizers are convening Nevada’s SciTech best and brightest—connecting entrepreneurs, investors, educators, business trailblazers and community leaders—to cultivate cross-industry collaboration. Scientists and technologists will hang up their lab coats and spend the evening sipping cocktails, discovering new technologies, meeting industry contemporaries and sharing a love of science, technology and Nevada. This inaugural event showcases the entrepreneurs who are building the companies of tomorrow and it provides the foundation for the growth of a vibrant SciTech cluster.

The SciTech Hookup begins with cocktails and a tech showcase in the elegant ambiance of the World Market Center Las Vegas. Then, over dinner, the stunning backdrop of the Las Vegas landscape frames keynote speaker Howard Asher (scientist, serial entrepreneur, consultant and instructor), who will share an insider’s view of the successful development of the world...
renowned science and technology cluster in San Diego. Special guest, Nevada State Treasurer Kate Marshall, will share her vision of the impact this cluster can have on the region and the state. A guest panel will explore the opportunities and challenges that SciTech industries face in Nevada.

All science and technology professionals are invited to this vital community event. Spend the evening learning how science and technology clusters drive job growth, talking to investors, networking or just relaxing and enjoying a fabulous evening on the town in the company of those who speak the same language.

Additional information is available at www.scitechhookup.org or by following @scitechhookup on Twitter or Scitech Hookup on Facebook.

This event is hosted by Parallel Innovation Labs and Southern Nevada Biotechnology Entrepreneurs (SNBE). Initial sponsors include the Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization (NIREC) and The City of Henderson.

Get a booth or chat table while they are available!

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