

**2024**  
**RESEARCH EXPO**

Connecting researchers with insight, opportunities  
and resources to succeed



**Join Us: UC Davis Research Expo 2024**

The annual UC Davis Research Expo is a one-day event that showcases the latest research-related insight, resources, opportunities and tools to help you advance your research. The event includes exhibits, presentations, workshops and opportunities to network with potential collaborators.

Drop by the Venture Catalyst table to say hello and learn more about our program offerings, and join us in the afternoon as our Interim Director, [Janine Elliott](#), moderates the panel discussion – **Aggie Climate Action for Equity: A Showcase of Innovations Addressing California’s Climate Challenges**. Panelist will include Awardees of the [ACE Proof-of-Concept Grants](#).

We welcome you to enjoy the [full schedule of events](#) or attend portions that are of particular interest.

**Who should attend:** Faculty, post-docs, staff, research administrators, students and industry partners involved in research.

**Cost:** Free

**When:** April 18, 2024, 10:00am-3:00pm PDT

**Where:** [UC Davis Conference Center](#)

[Register Here](#)

# Venture Catalyst, Aliment Capital, and MoFo Host Food & Ag Startup Legal Bootcamp



WEBINAR SERIES

## Food & Ag Startup Legal Bootcamp

Please join Venture Catalyst at University of California, Davis, Aliment Capital, and Morrison Foerster for a seven-week Food & Ag Startup Legal Bootcamp.



Thursday, March 28 -  
May 9, 2024

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. PST  
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. EST



Scan here to  
register

Disruptive startups in the food and agriculture sectors are revolutionizing the way we address the world's food challenges and paving the way for a better tomorrow. To ensure you get your industry-changing ideas off the ground, it is critical that you have a solid understanding of the legal issues that arise when launching and growing a startup in this field.

This free course features interactive sessions designed to introduce startups, entrepreneurs, and others interested in the food and agriculture industries to the legal knowledge needed to grow your business, protect your innovations, and navigate the challenging regulatory landscape. Leading lawyers from [MoFo](#)'s globally recognized Food + Agriculture industry team will lead each session with a real-world experience-based approach and provide insights on key legal issues across the sector.

Courses run every Thursday, 1:00–2:00pm PDT, through May 9, 2024. Registrants may choose to attend weekly or join individual sessions.

[Register Now](#)

## Have a Startup Idea? Or Looking for a Proven Method to Validate Your Idea?



[Intro to Lean Startup: NSF I-Corps Method](#) is a free remote one-week course based on Steve Blank's Lean LaunchPad. The three evening sessions teach you to identify your top customer segment and value propositions, and accelerate finding product market fit.

Outside of class, you'll do at least 15 interviews with potential customers as part of the customer discovery process. You can expect to spend 20-30 hours outside of class on interviews.

Eligible teams that complete the course with instructor endorsement might also qualify for the [National NSF I-Corps program](#), which includes a \$50,000 National Science Foundation customer discovery grant.

**When:** Course sessions are held May 13, May 15, & May 20 from 5:00-8:00pm PDT

**Who:** Any team (2-4 people) with a STEM technology based startup idea

**Application deadline:** April 26, 2024

Submit your application at the link below. You'll be contacted two weeks before the first day of class to schedule a team interview with the I-Corps instructor

[Learn More](#)

## UC Davis Student Startup Center PLASMA Demo Day 2024

Come join the [UC Davis Student Startup Center](#) (SSC) for PLASMA Demo Day 2024 on Thursday May 2 at 6:30pm at [California Hall](#) on UC Davis main campus. PLASMA is a 12-week early-stage cohort accelerator for UC Davis undergraduate entrepreneurs, and this capstone event will feature startups in the

2024 cohort pitch to an auditorium of industry experts and peers. Whether you're a student, researcher, or tech enthusiast, this event is perfect for anyone interested in cutting-edge developments in startup ventures. The College of Engineering's Dean's Executive Committee has also selected the Student Startup Center as a beneficiary of their [Give Day Challenge](#), so if the SSC can secure 30 gifts of at least \$10, they'll receive a \$7K gift for their PLASMA teams for Demo Day!

## PLASMA DEMO DAY



[Get Tickets Here](#)

## Venture Catalyst Founders' Circle Roundup



Venture Catalyst hosted the first UC Davis Founders' Circle of 2024 on March 26 at the Aggie Square Launch Space in Sacramento. Sponsored by [Advocacy Chiefs](#), the UC Davis Founders' Circle is a networking event bringing together UC Davis startup founders focused on human health to share their experiences, insights and best practices. The event also set the stage for future Founders' Circle events,

which aim to continue fostering a community of innovation and entrepreneurship within the UC Davis ecosystem, offering more opportunities for emerging startups to learn and grow. Stay tuned for our next event!

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# Funding Opportunities

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## **LifeHub California Golden Ticket Competition**

The Bayer Crop Science LifeHub California Golden Ticket competition is open to startups from anywhere in the world, from pre-seed to Series A, in the areas of regenerative agriculture, novel crop protection & efficiency approaches, advanced breeding technologies, and applications of synthetic biology. The successful winner of the competition will receive a year of fully-paid use of lab space, shared instruments and equipment, incubation, refrigeration, and other facilities at the Bayer LifeHub California @AgStart facility, hosted by [AgStart](#), in Woodland California. [Register here](#). Deadline: April 30, 2024

## **VentureWell E-Team Program**

The E-Team Program, part of the VentureWell Accelerator, supports student ventures as you embark down the path you're likely to take as an innovator and entrepreneur. We help you advance your invention through a powerful mix of up to \$25,000 in grant funding, entrepreneurship training, mentorship by dedicated staff, national recognition, and networking with peers and industry experts. [Learn more](#).  
Deadline: May 1, 2024

## **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program**

To meet the growing population's food needs, we must develop innovative, safe, and sustainable management strategies for livestock, crops, and critical underlying resources. Applications that address climate change, food and nutrition security, expanding markets for producers, indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, and equity for underserved producers are welcome. [Apply here](#). Deadline: December 31, 2024

## **SBIR Grants for Women**

Grantify helps women by awarding \$200+ million in research and development (R&D) funding to about 400 startups each year, in three phases, through 11 federal bodies - including the National Science Foundation (NSF). [Learn more](#).

## **Growth Factory - Accelerating Venture-Backable Startups**

The goal of this local startup accelerator is to help founders of pre-seed to seed stage venture backable companies located in the Greater Sacramento Region rapidly achieve product-market fit, positioning them to raise funds and achieve revenue of \$1M in ARR within 18 months. Applications are open on a rolling admissions basis. [Apply here](#).

## **AgFunder**

AgFunder is a new kind of venture capital firm built on proprietary technology and a global ecosystem of over 85,000 subscribers. We invest in exceptional and bold founders who are committed to building the next generation of agrifood technology companies that will transform our food system. We are one of the most active agrifood tech investors in the world. [Apply here](#).

## **Tech Coast Angels**

If your company has a strong team with a great defensible idea, early traction, and is set to grow, TCA is ready to invest up to several million dollars individually or with our syndicate partners. TCA looks at investments in the United States and Canada. [Currently accepting applications](#).

## **Open SBIR/STTR Grant Topics**

Federal Research/Research & Development with the potential for commercialization. [Learn More](#).

## **UC Davis Office of Research - Links to Funding Sources**

Browse the listings of funding announcements provided by sponsoring agencies and other pertinent information about obtaining critical research funding. [View the complete list here.](#)

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## Educational Opportunities

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### **AI Series, Part 1: AI in University Commercialization Practices - OUP Webinar**

As the world of AI continues to grow, join OUP for this webinar as they dive into a couple of programs that have sprouted in the Technology Transfer space to understand how AI can be used to help the process of university commercialization functions. Marc Sedam of NYU and James Zanewicz of Tulane University will join to discuss how their institutions have adopted the use of AI. [Register here.](#) Date: April 18, 2024 | 12:00pm EDT

### **StartupSac 2024 Warm-Up Pitch**

Applications for the May 2024 StartupSac Warm-Up Pitch cohort are now open! If you're a startup based in Sacramento or its surrounding counties with a scalable business model and aspirations for investment, this is your golden opportunity to refine your pitch and connect with potential investors. [Register here.](#)  
Deadline: April 22, 2024

### **Startup Grind: Startup Pitch Workshop**

Folsom Startup, in collaboration with the Northern California Innovation District, StartupSac, Startup Grind Sacramento, and Granite City Coworking, is proud to present this monthly pitch workshop. Present your 5-minute startup pitch and receive valuable feedback from our experienced pitch coaches. If your pitch impresses the judges, you will be invited to present to local angel investors. [Register here.](#) Date: April 24, 2024 | 5:30-7:30pm PDT

### **Think. Do. Discover: A Conversation with Mitch Lasky**

Join us for a thought-provoking talk with Mitch Lasky, as he champions the crucial role of the humanities (and digital humanities) in shaping innovation and entrepreneurship in today's ever-evolving world. [Register here.](#) Date: April 30, 2024 | 5:00-6:30pm PDT

### **NorCal Entrepreneur Hub**

The NorCal Entrepreneur Hub is a dynamic online platform that enables innovators, startup founders, and small business owners to find and connect with the right resources for their business, including investors, universities, mentoring programs, networking groups, training programs, and more. This FREE regional tool is a great place for any startup founder or small business owner to get started and/or look for resources as you grow. [Learn more.](#)

### **On-Demand Virtual Entrepreneurship Toolkit Series**

The new On-Demand Toolkit Series is a resource of past recordings as well as slides and tools taught throughout the 5-week series. After a short application, you will have access to five recordings and subsequent resource tools. [Apply now.](#)

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## Regional Events

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### **Startup Happy Hour**

Come join for a fun evening at The Last Stop Saloon in Old Sacramento! Network, relax, and connect with fellow startup enthusiasts. Featuring Nathan Langley, Co-Founder and CEO of RxGuardian Inc. [RSVP here.](#) Date: April 23, 2024 | 5:00-7:00pm PDT

### **Circular Economy Innovation Competition**

The Circular Economy Innovation Competition is an innovation and venture competition led by the Carlsen Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship for early-stage startups in the circular economy and sustainability space. A total of \$20,000 in cash awards will be given out! [Learn more](#). Date: April 24, 2024 | 11:00am-2:30pm PDT

### **Big ideas Grand Prize Pitch Day & Awards Celebration**

The Andrew and Virginia Rudd Family Foundation Big Ideas Grand Prize Pitch Day and Awards Celebration brings together the entire Big Ideas community to recognize the most outstanding social innovations being developed by passionate and talented UC Berkeley students. [Learn more](#). Date: May 1, 2024 | 4:00-7:00pm PDT

### **2024 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Forum & Awards**

Join the Sacramento Business Journal for the 2024 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Forum & Awards! An opportunity to learn about DEI in the workplace and to honor those who are doing it right. [Get tickets here](#). Date: May 16, 2024

### **24th Annual Big Bang! Awards Ceremony**

The UC Davis Big Bang! Business Competition provides a forum for innovators to collaborate, develop and test business ideas. Join us as we celebrate this year's Big Bang! finalists, announce our winners - and help them launch in their bright futures! [RSVP here](#). Date: May 21, 2024 | 5:00-8:00pm PDT

### **CBCC Business Mixer**

Network and grow your business at the upcoming CBCC Business Mixer on the first Friday of every month! Get the chance to win a generous Visa Card, a week's worth of radio spots to promote your business, and more! [Learn more here](#).

### **1 Million Cups**

Present your early-stage company to your peers. Or just grab a coffee and listen.

Date: [Every Wednesday](#)

### **Business Casual: Get Your Creative Biz Together**

Every fourth Saturday of the month, Atrium's mentorship team will be hosting a free business basics discussion group. Growing your creative business can seem like a daunting task. Atrium is here to help take your ideas from the drawing board to the boardroom with free "get started right" business workshops for creative startups. Come with a laptop and a ready-to-grow mentality. [Register now](#). Date: Ongoing

### **Sacramento State Carlsen Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Events and Workshops**

[Learn More](#). Date: Ongoing

### **California Life Sciences Institute FAST Advisory Program**

Get the coaching you need to perfect your business model. [Apply now](#). Date: Ongoing

### **Bay Area NSF Innovation Corps Immersive Short Course**

Join the weeklong immersive course for university researchers and early-stage startup founders. [Apply now](#). Date: Ongoing

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## **Industry Events**

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**World Summit AI Americas**

The world's leading AI summit for the Americas will return to Montréal and bring together global AI leaders from enterprise, big tech, startups, academia, law, government and investment to hear the world's brightest AI brains deliver innovative, cutting-edge, topical content, tackle the most burning AI issues and set the global AI agenda. [Learn more](#). Dates: April 24-25, 2024

#### **TechCrunch Early Stage**

At this one-day founder summit, you'll get actionable advice and takeaways from top experts, meet other entrepreneurs taking similar journeys, share your own experiences, and build the confidence to take the next steps towards growing your business. [Learn more](#). Date: April 25, 2024

#### **X4 - The Experience Management Summit**

Every experience at X4 plays a role in helping you become a leader in the XM movement. You'll leave energized, informed, and prepared to drive immediate change at your organization. Featuring Keynote Speaker, Former First Lady Michelle Obama. [Learn more](#). Dates: May 1-3, 2024

#### **Seed Central - The Essential Networking Event**

Come network, socialize, and checkout the new *Talents Corner*. Featuring guest speaker, Mohsen B. Mesgaran, Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences. [Register here](#). Dates: May 9, 2024

#### **2024 BIO International Convention**

The BIO International Convention is the largest and most comprehensive event for biotechnology, representing the full ecosystem of biotech with over 20,000 industry leaders from across the globe. [Learn more](#). Dates: June 3-6, 2024

## **About Venture Catalyst**

**UC Davis Venture Catalyst** supports the development of new UC Davis-associated ventures fueled by university research and technology. Venture Catalyst offers several innovative programs that bridge the gap between early-stage research and commercialization and provide entrepreneurs the resources, support, and connections needed to successfully form and grow technology-based startups. With a focus on accelerating technology-led economic development in the Davis-Sacramento region, Venture Catalyst also works closely with partners in the regional innovation and economic development ecosystems.

#### **Contact Venture Catalyst**

For more information or for editorial comments, please [email us](#).



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