



## **Venture Catalyst Welcomes Karl Jessen as New Director**

We are very happy to announce that Karl Jessen has joined the Venture Catalyst team in the Office of Innovation and Economic Development as the new Director! Karl joins us from the University of British Columbia at Vancouver where he was the Executive Director of Innovation Partnerships and Collaboration. With a robust background in innovation, Karl has led teams in major private sector companies, founded and secured funding for two startups, and served as Executive Director of the Quantum Matter Institute at UBC.

Karl shared: “As the new head of UC Davis Venture Catalyst, I am honored to lead this successful, dynamic, and innovative group. UC Davis has unique research strengths and our mission is to transform that groundbreaking research into impactful ventures that will shape the future. Working collaboratively, we will continue to foster an ecosystem of creativity and entrepreneurship, and I look forward to helping drive forward the next generation of innovation and excellence at UC Davis.”

Please join us in welcoming Karl to UC Davis!

**Fall 2024 STAIR Cohort - Now Accepting Applications!**

Venture Catalyst is excited to launch the pilot cycle of the [Fall Cohort of the Science Translation and Innovative Research \(STAIR\) Grant Program](#) at UC

Davis! The STAIR program is designed to support innovative research projects that have the potential to translate groundbreaking ideas into viable solutions and commercial applications. This cycle aims to provide seed funding for early-stage research projects, enabling researchers to validate their concepts and explore their market potential.

**[Application Deadline is Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 12:00 PM PDT](#)**

Questions? Email [stairgrant@ucdavis.edu](mailto:stairgrant@ucdavis.edu).

[Apply Now](#)

## Accessing Federal Grant Funding for Climate and Ag Founders - ACE Fall 2024 Webinar

Join [Aggie Climate action for Equity \(ACE\)](#) for our next knowledge exchange! Featuring a panel of successful entrepreneurs who will share advice based on their own personal experiences to help climate and Ag tech founders apply for non-dilutive federal grant funding such as the federal Small Business Innovation Research grants (SBIR-STTR).



**Featuring:** Evan Taylor, Founder & President of Science Founders Inc., Theresa Dankovich, Ph.D., Co-founder & CTO of Folia Materials, and Dr. Mariela Alfonzo, Founder & CEO of State of Place.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024

**Time:** 1:00-2:00pm PDT

This will be a dynamic session with ample time to participate. Registered participants will be provided with a resource slide deck prior to the event, so be sure to come with your questions for a robust Q&A session!

[Register Here](#)

## From Lab to Life: Maximizing Impact of UC Davis Intellectual Property for Human Health Webinar

Monthly Seminar Series

# From Lab to Life

An Introduction to  
Intellectual Property

Free Webinar

Wed, Sept 4  
Noon – 12:55 pm (PDT)

Join UC Davis Health Ventures for an inspiring first webinar on the transformative power of inventions in discovery research. Discover how these innovations can drive ongoing research, revolutionize health and care practices, and positively impact society. Learn how innovative ideas from the lab can be transformed into real-life solutions that benefit society.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

## Two UC Davis-associated Startups Among Finalists at Pitch Elk Grove 2024



Two UC Davis-associated startups, [AlVision Food](#) and [Japa](#), have been selected as finalists in the highly competitive Pitch Elk Grove 2024 competition. This recognition highlights the innovative spirit and entrepreneurial talent emerging from UC Davis, as these startups bring forward groundbreaking solutions from food technology to smart parking systems. Their selection among a record number of applicants showcases the university's strong

influence in fostering impactful and meaningful ventures. We are proud to see UC Davis entrepreneurs leading the way in Northern California's startup ecosystem!

[Read More](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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### **EPA SBIR/STTR Solicitation/BAA**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, is seeking proposals from startups and small businesses to develop novel environmental technologies. [Learn more](#). Deadline: August 21, 2024

### **Berkley SkyDeck 19**

Berkeley SkyDeck is now accepting applications for Batch 19 of its renowned startup accelerator program. Selected startups will receive a \$200,000 investment, mentorship, and access to a vast network of advisors and resources. Open to global startups, this six-month program offers opportunities to connect with industry leaders and pitch to investors. [Learn more](#). Deadline: August 23, 2024

### **DOE Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize (E-SCRAP)**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently launched the Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize. This three-phase competition will award up to \$4 million to competitors to substantially increase the production and use of critical materials recovered from electronic scrap - or e-scrap. [Learn more](#). Deadline: September 4, 2024

### **NIH Small Business Transition Grant**

The Small Business Transition Grant for New Entrepreneurs Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) aim to support career development and the conduct of research and development under a new entrepreneur's direction. Optimal PDs/PIs for this award are early-career scientists and professionals with research, technology development, and/or healthcare delivery skills and experience, but limited entrepreneurial and independent (non-mentored) research leadership experience. [Learn more](#). Deadline: September 5, 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

### **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](#).

### **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](#).

# Educational Opportunities

## **2024-2025 UC Davis Business Development Fellowship**

The year-long Business Development Fellows Program is open to current UC Davis graduate students, Ph.D. candidates and post-docs ONLY. Fellows attend five Graduate School of Management courses and participate in networking events and cohort-based mentoring. They gain a first-hand look at the entrepreneurial opportunities available in industry while adding valuable coursework and experience to their resumes. [Learn more](#). Deadline: August 29, 2024

## **2024-2025 UC Davis Leaders for the Future**

Participate in the 2024-2025 Leaders for the Future Fellowship, and you'll gain confidence and a strong sense of community as you develop in-demand leadership, innovation and business skills. As part of this fellowship, you'll engage in an experiential project or applied experience beyond academia that aligns with your interests and potential work aspirations. While exploring career possibilities, you'll develop practical skills that enable you to stand out as a job candidate, communicate with impact and collaborate effectively on teams. You'll build your network and celebrate your successes as a member of a supportive interdisciplinary cohort of UC Davis graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. [Learn more](#).  
Deadline: August 29, 2024

## **Nucleate Activator Program**

Nucleate's Activator program is now open for applications, offering an opportunity for academic founders to turn their biotech and life sciences research into successful startups. This free, non-dilutive program provides mentorship, access to resources, and the chance to connect with a vast network of industry experts and investors. Ideal for those looking to commercialize breakthrough technologies, the program culminates in a showcase event where participants can pitch their ventures. [Learn more](#). Deadline: October 15, 2024

## **Startup Pitch Workshop**

Join Startup Folsom for an intensive pitch workshop designed to help entrepreneurs refine their business presentations. This event will provide valuable insights into crafting compelling pitches, whether you're looking to attract investors, partners, or customers. Participants will receive hands-on coaching from industry experts, with opportunities for personalized feedback. [Register here](#). Date: August 28, 2024 | 5:30-7:00pm PDT

## **University Lab Partners Golden Ticket Demo Day**

University Lab Partners is hosting the Golden Ticket Demo Day, a premier event where startups compete for a coveted "Golden Ticket," granting them free lab space and resources. This event is an excellent opportunity for early-stage biotech companies to showcase their innovations to a panel of experts, network with industry leaders, and gain valuable exposure. It's a must-attend for those looking to accelerate their growth in the life sciences sector. [Learn more](#). Deadline: August 29, 2024

## **StartupSac Founder Mastermind Cohort**

The Mastermind program offers an exclusive opportunity for growth-focused professionals to connect, collaborate, and level up their skills. Through guided sessions, participants will engage in deep-dive discussions, problem-solving exercises, and peer mentoring, all aimed at fostering personal and professional development. This program is ideal for those looking to overcome challenges, set ambitious goals, and build a strong network of like-minded individuals. [Apply here](#). Cohort Begins: September 4, 2024

## **OUP Webinar: University Royalty Monetization**

Join OUP for a panel discussion webinar on what university leaders should know about royalty



monetization, including legal nuances, university mission view points, and buy-side perspectives. As an opener, we'll review what a royalty monetization is and the growth of monetizations in the past few decades. The bulk of the webinar is a practical discussion on the decision process, the legal agreement, other party considerations, engagement with inventors, and specialty help with royalty monetization transactions. [Register here](#). Date: September 5, 2024 | 9:00am PDT

### **Carlsen Center Lean Startup Bootcamp**

The Lean Startup Bootcamp is a two-day workshop designed to help entrepreneurs validate their business ideas, build MVPs, and create sustainable startups. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises focused on customer discovery, business modeling, and rapid prototyping, guided by experienced mentors. This event is ideal for early-stage founders looking to apply Lean Startup principles to their ventures. [Register here](#). Date: September 20-21, 2024

### **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](#).

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## **Regional Events**

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### **Startup Happy Hour**

Come join for a fun evening at Smic's Bar in Sacramento! Network, relax, and connect with fellow startup enthusiasts. Featuring the CEO of Onsite, Derek Chase. [RSVP here](#). Date: August 27, 2024 | 5:00-7:00pm PDT

### **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

### **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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### **Salesforce Dreamforce 2024**

The self-proclaimed largest AI event in the world - learn how to transform your company into an AI

Enterprise. [Learn more](#). Dates: September 17-19, 2024

### **GFX24 Venture Summit**

GFX24 is a 2-day Venture Summit & Startup Showcase that offers a unique opportunity to engage with key decision-makers and explore groundbreaking solutions in industries such as Future of Food, Health & Medicine; Smart Cities, Transportation & Climate; and Enterprise AI, Data & Security. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 9-10, 2024

### **SOSV Climate Tech Summit**

The SOSV Climate Tech Summit aims to convene the climate tech startup ecosystem of founders, investors, technologists, corporates, policymakers and media to discuss the extreme challenges ahead. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 14-18, 2024

### **Bio Investor Forum**

The BIO Investor Forum is an exclusive event designed for early-stage and established biotech companies to connect with investors, partners, and peers. Attendees will have the opportunity to showcase their innovations, engage in one-on-one meetings, and explore strategic collaborations. This forum is a key event for anyone involved in biotech investment and business development, providing a platform to drive growth and innovation in the life sciences sector. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 15-16, 2024

### **TechCrunch Disrupt 2024**

Disrupt is where you'll find innovation for every stage of your startup journey. Whether you're a budding founder with a revolutionary idea, a seasoned startup looking to scale, or an investor seeking the next big thing, Disrupt offers unparalleled resources, connections, and expert insights to propel your venture forward. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 28-30, 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.

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