



## Opportunities for Impactful Innovation in Climate Tech

ACE Summer 2024  
Knowledge Exchange Webinar

**Featuring: Ryan D. Taylor**, Investment Associate at Azolla Ventures, and **Westley Dang**, CSO & Principal at Indie Bio

Join [Aggie Climate action for Equity \(ACE\): Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Climate Change Solutions](#) for our next knowledge exchange! Ryan and Westley will be discussing areas of excitement in climate tech, cutting-edge startups in their respective portfolios, and the inspiring innovations they're working on. You'll also learn about areas of future innovation and get advice on how to navigate the climate tech landscape.

**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024

**Time:** 12:00-1:00pm PDT

This event is perfect for those interested in meta level trends in climate tech and innovation, particularly graduate students and postdocs who have an interest in this industry.

For questions, please email [ace-grants@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ace-grants@ucdavis.edu).

[Register Here](#)

### From our Partners at OUP: Finding Your Startup CEO

## OUP Webinar

*Finding Your Startup CEO*

June 21, 2024 | 12:00 pm ET



Join OUP on June 21 for a two-part webinar series on finding a CEO for your academic startup company. The first part of this webinar series will focus on the evaluation process for CEO candidates. OUP Managing Partner [Marc Singer](#) will discuss the importance of the leadership team to a startup's success and explore methods for evaluating outside CEOs. The webinar will highlight relevant backgrounds and important characteristics of a startup CEO, and it will

provide tools to assist with candidate evaluation. Marc will also provide data on the performance of different types of CEOs, including grad students and professors, from OUP's tech portfolio.

[Register Here](#)

## Pitch Elk Grove 2024 - \$20K in Prize Money!



Calling all Northern California entrepreneurs! **Pitch Elk Grove 2024** is now accepting applications for its third annual event on September 19th. Apply for a chance to win your share of \$20,000 in prize money, along with unparalleled opportunities for innovative startups. Don't miss your chance to elevate your business with Pitch Elk Grove!

[Apply by July 15!](#)

## UC Davis-associated Startup NuCicer Lauded by UCOP

[NuCicer](#), a UC Davis-associated startup, was recently featured in an article by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) for its

innovative approach to chickpea cultivation. The company, founded by Doug Cook, a UC Davis plant pathology professor, and his daughter Kathryn Cook, is leveraging ancestral genetics to develop chickpea varieties with higher protein content and improved climate resilience. In addition to providing a more powerful nutritional punch, including 75 percent more protein than the conventional species, NuCicer's beans also need less water and help regenerate soil nutrients, making them easier on the climate. This breakthrough has significant implications for enhancing nutrition and sustainability in agriculture, embodying the impactful research and entrepreneurial spirit fostered within the UC system.



[Read More](#)

## UC Davis Students' Seizure-Prediction Wearable Takes Top Prize at Big Bang! Business Competition



A team of University of California, Davis, students received the \$25,000 first prize for the best innovation in the 24th annual [Big Bang! Business Competition](#) on Tuesday, May 21. The competition is organized by the UC Davis [Mike and Renee Child Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#). The team,

which has won several awards already, developed EpiSense, a wearable electroencephalogram (EEG) that predicts seizures and can give patients about 30 seconds advance warning. That is enough time for them to move to safety and prevent many common seizure-related injuries such as head trauma, choking and broken bones.

[Read More](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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### **ULP Golden Ticket**

The Golden Ticket awards the winner with a lab bench for one year and opportunities to engage with industry mentors including scientific and business leaders from Allergan Aesthetics. [Learn more.](#)

Deadline: July 8, 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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### **Investment Readiness Series: Accelerating Growth in Bio/Climate Tech Ventures**

Whether you're looking to refine your product, validate your market fit, or secure funding, this expert-driven session presented by the Carlsen Center will provide the knowledge, strategies, and tools essential for success. [Register here.](#) Date: June 20, 2024 | 12:00-2:00pm PDT

### **Choose Folsom: NCID Pitch Nights**

Please join the Northern California Innovation District the 3rd Thursday of every month to hear from local start-ups. [Register here.](#) Date: June 20, 2024 | 5:00-6:30pm PDT

### **Lean Startup Bootcamp**

In this two-day bootcamp hosted by the Carlsen Center, you will learn about the foundational tools and mindsets needed to get your idea off the ground in the leanest fashion. Some of the tools and mindsets covered will be the Lean Canvas, Value Proposition Canvas, Design Thinking and Testing Business Ideas. [Register here.](#) Date: June 21-22, 2024

### **NHLBI Catalyze: Talk to the Experts "Office Hours"**

Catalyze Office Hours are an open opportunity for anyone engaged or interested in translational science to informally connect with several members of the Catalyze technical team. Come with questions about the Catalyze program or product development, topics for discussion, or simply drop in to listen to the conversation! [Register here.](#) Date: June 24, 2024 | 9:00-10:00am PDT

### **AI & Future Grid Cleantech Meetup**

Connect with industry leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts at the CleanStart meetup to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on sustainable energy grids and the future of clean technology. [Register here.](#) Date: June 27, 2024 | 6:00-9:00pm 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 Alaro Craft Brewery in Sacramento! Network, relax, and connect with fellow startup enthusiasts. Featuring EV Life Co-founder and Co-CEO Kevin Favro. [RSVP here.](#) Date: June 25, 2024 | 5:00-7:00pm PDT

### **2024 Fastest Growing Companies**

Our region is home to a number of businesses, new and old. Join us as we honor the Fastest Growing companies of 2024! [Register here.](#) Date: August 8, 2024 | 4:00-6:30pm 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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### **Seed Central Special Event - California Leafy Greens Research Board Presentations**

Come network and socialize at the new USDA/ARS' Sam Farr United States Crop Improvement and Protection Research Center, and hear from speakers at the CLGRB about available traits and resources that are perhaps underutilized. [Register here.](#) Dates: June 20, 2024

### **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

### 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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