



## 2024 ACE Awardees: 7 Inspiring Climate Change Solutions

The awardees of the 2024 [Aggie Climate action for Equity \(ACE\)](#) grant program, an initiative to spur UC Davis-based translational research, pilots, and commercialization aligned with California's Climate Action Priorities, presented their research proposals at the annual Office of Research Expo on April 18. The session, introduced by Venture Catalyst Interim-Director Janine Elliott and moderated by ACE Program Manager Belen Flores, provided attendees with a much-needed surge of inspiration about the future of climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation, describing projects underway that are promising, tangible solutions for California and beyond. Read more about the individual projects at the link below.

[Read More](#)

## UC Davis-associated Startup Scout Raises \$3M



[Scout](#), a UC Davis spinout and Napa County-based farm management software company, closed a deal for \$3 million in seed funding from various investors. Driven by AI that empowers growers to optimize quality, yield, and financial results, the company captures photos of vineyards at the ground level and uses artificial

intelligence to analyze the photos and provide actionable data on the crops. “It’s like giving superhuman powers to farmers,” Scout CEO Kia Behnia said. “They now essentially have X-ray vision. Our company is all about providing data and insights to help farmers farm better and smarter.”

[Read More at the Press Democrat](#)

## 24th Annual UC Davis Big Bang! Awards Ceremony

Celebrate the culmination of the Big Bang! Business Competition with our community of innovators and entrepreneurs! The annual [UC Davis Big Bang! Business Competition](#) provides a forum for innovators to collaborate, develop and test business ideas. Please join us in supporting the participating innovators and the [Mike and Renee Child Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#) as they recognize this year’s Big Bang! participants and announce the 2024 competition winners. This is a great opportunity to connect with other innovators and entrepreneurs!



[RSVP Here](#)

## UC Davis-associated Startup TurtleTree Secures First Commercial Customer in Cadence Cold Brew



[TurtleTree](#), which makes an animal-free powerful nutrient usually found in mammal milk, has secured its first commercial customer - an endurance-sports supplement company. Madison, Wisconsin-based [Cadence Cold Brew](#) will make an espresso-shot beverage that features TurtleTree’s animal-free lactoferrin powder, which it calls LF+. TurtleTree was co-founded in 2019 by Fengru Lin and UC Davis alumnus Max Rye. In the summer of 2021, it opened its Yolo County office at the [Lab@AgStart](#), a [Venture Catalyst DRIVE](#) program member.

[Read More at the Sac Biz Journal](#)

## NorCal AngelCon Application Deadline is June 1!



# NORCAL ANGELCON

## \$105K TO GROW YOUR STARTUP



Entrepreneurship is all about seizing opportunities. For startups in the Greater Sacramento region, NorCal AngelCon presents an unparalleled chance to secure funding and propel their ventures to new heights. This new annual pitch competition, hosted by the [Sacramento Entrepreneurial Growth Alliance](#), offers not just financial backing but also invaluable mentorship and exposure to a network of seasoned investors. As the applications for NorCal AngelCon 2024 open, founders are gearing up to showcase their innovative ideas and vie for a share of the \$105,000 prize pool!

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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### **UC Institute of Transportation Studies - 2024-25 RFP**

The RFP will allocate approximately \$2.7 million to support research that addresses and informs transportation policy, planning, and engineering issues in California. The RFP is open to eligible applicants at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, and UCLA. [Learn more](#). Deadline: May 31, 2024

### **Understanding the Intersection of Social Inequities to Optimize Health and Reduce Health Disparities: The Axes Initiative**

Research shows that intersecting systems of privilege and oppression produce and sustain wide and unjust variations in health. The Axes Initiative will support research to understand health at the intersections of social statuses such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and ability, by examining contributions of social and other determinants of health. The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) intends to commit \$3,000,000 in FY 2025 to fund 3-5 awards. [Learn more](#). Deadline: July 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:

### **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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### **CleanTech Funding Foundations Series**

This series aims to support early stage innovators and entrepreneurs in understanding the foundations of how to raise capital especially as a cleantech startup. This series is open to all founders and startups but will leverage examples from the cleantech industry. [Register here.](#) Date: May 15, 2024 | 6:00-8:00pm PDT

### **University Lab SBIR/STTR Series: Budgeting & Building Your Team**

Join SBIR experts from Eva Garland Consulting for part 2 of this in-depth 4-part series to help your company write a winning proposal. Topics will include key personnel and gap analysis, partnering with research institutions, and post-award procedures and expectations. [Register here.](#) Date: May 22, 2024 | 9:00-10:00am PDT

### **FourthWave Forum Series**

Join the first ever FourthWave Forum Series! Learn about the power of a Growth Mindset from experienced leadership coaches. [Register here.](#) Date: May 22, 2024 | 5:00-6:30pm PDT

### **OUP Webinar - Meet the VCs**

The first in a series of webinars to introduce you to VCs who often invest in startups arising from

academic research, this webinar will feature Jennifer Griffin of Mission BioCapital and Joe Collura of Portal Innovations. Come learn about what they offer, what they look for, and how they typically work with university startups in the life science. [Register here](#). Date: May 23, 2024 | 9:00am PDT

### **Investment Readiness Series: Accelerating Growth in Bio/ClimateTech Ventures**

This impactful four-part series is designed to propel ClimateTech and BioTech ventures to new heights. Whether you're looking to refine your product, validate your market fit, or secure funding, our expert-driven sessions will provide the knowledge, strategies, and tools essential for success. This series is ideal for startups in the Climate and BioTech sectors that are geared towards innovation and are seeking investment to scale their operations. [Register here](#). Date: June 1, 2024 | 12:00-2:00pm PDT

### **2024 FourthWave Accelerator**

The FourthWave accelerator for women-led technology businesses dedicates an equal effort to leadership awareness and coaching, developing sound startup business fundamentals, and preparedness for external funding. Be a part of changing the gender equity narrative! [Register here](#).  
Deadline: June 7, 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](#).

### **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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### **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

### **Startup Happy Hour**

Come join for a fun evening at Bailarin Cellars Winery in Sacramento! Network, relax, and connect with fellow startup enthusiasts. Featuring Diana Gamzina, the founder and CEO of Elve Speed. Diana has made groundbreaking contributions to the field of wireless ultra-high-speed connectivity, benefiting both remote and urban areas. [RSVP here](#). Date: May 21, 2024 | 5:00-7:00pm PDT

### **MoFo ScaleUp - Pitch Day San Francisco**

The six finalist companies are excited to invite you and your network as they present in front of a panel of VCs! The event will also include ample networking time for our guests to mix and mingle. [Register here](#).  
Date: May 29, 2024 | 11:00am-2:00pm PDT

### **Sacramento Inno Awards**

What makes an innovation, company or individual candidate for an Inno award, you ask? We're looking at startups that have had a banner year, people and companies with new funding, recent product launches, innovative approaches to solving problems and creative leaders who think outside of the box. The

Sacramento Inno Awards are designed to showcase those who are making the biggest impact on our local ecosystem. [Nominate now](#). Deadline: June 7, 2024

### **2024 Women Who Mean Business**

The Sacramento Business Journal is proud to host the 29th annual Women Who Mean Business awards luncheon & Women's Expo! Join us in recognizing this year's class of Women Who Mean Business and expand your network by connecting with fellow professionals and industry leaders at our annual luncheon and expo! [Learn more](#). Date: June 14, 2024

### **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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### **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

### **StrictlyVC - Washington D.C.**

StrictlyVC delivers exclusive insider VC content while creating meaningful connections with leading investors & leaders in tech. Join us for an evening of intimate interviews with industry heavy hitters and impactful conversation. [Register here](#). Dates: June 11, 2024

### **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

### **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

**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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