



PURDUE INNOVATES



PURDUE ALUMNI

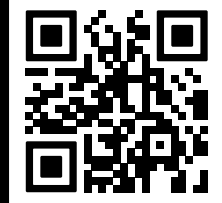
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
NETWORK

STARTUP AND TECHNOLOGY
EXPO26
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ALUMNI REUNION

APRIL 22-24, 2026

Convergence Center for Innovation
Spurgeon Club
West Lafayette, IN

CONNECT WITH US



purdueinnovates.org

	Ayman F Habib	Esteban Ernesto Marinero-Caceres	Jianguo Mei	Kevin Trumble	Muhammad A Alam	Saeed Mohammadi	Vikas Tomar
	Babak Ziaie	Fang Huang	Jiansong Zhang	Kinam Park	Mukerrem Cakmak	Sakkarapalayam Mahalingam	Vilas Pol
	Bryan Boudouris	Gabriel Simon	Jie Shan	Laurent Couetil	Natalia Doudareva	Sarah Calve	Vladimir Shalaev
	Byunghoo Jung	Garth Jason Simpson	Joerg Appenzeller	Li Qiao	Nikhilesh Chawla	Saurabh Bagchi	Walter Daniel Leon-Salas
Alexander Kildishev	Cagri Savran	Georgia Malandraki	John Patterson	Lia Stanciu-Gregory	Osman A Basaran	Shelley A Claridge	Wenzhuo Wu
Alexander Wei	Casey Krusemark	Gerhard Klimeck	Jonathan James Wilker	Liberty "Libbie" Pelter	Pablo Zavattieri	Sherry Harbin	Xiulin Ruan
Alexandra Boltasseva	Charles Allen Steele	Gintaras "Rex" Reklaitis	Jonathan Poggie	Luciano Castillo	Padinjaremadhom V Ramachandran	Shihuan Kuang	Young L Kim
Alexei Lagutchev	Charles Bouman Jr.	Greg Jensen	Jong Hyun Choi	Lynne S Taylor	Philip Low	Shimon Y Nof	Yung C Shin
Allen Garner	Chi Hwan Lee	Haiyan H Zhang	Joseph Stephen Jewell	Madduri Srinivasarao	Qili Liu	Shreyas Sen	Zhihong Chen
Amy Marie Marconnet	Chiwook Park	Hyowon Lee	Joseph V Sinfield	Mahdi Hosseini	Rahim Rahimi	Somali Chaterji	Zhong-Yin Zhang
Andrea M Liceaga	Darcy M Bullock	Jacqueline Linnes	Julie C Liu	Martin Jun	Rajamani P Gounder	Srinivasan Chandrasekar	Zoltan Nagy
Andrea Vacca	David Elan Martin Warsinger	James Albert Cooper	Jun Chen	Matthew Ward	Rakesh Agrawal	Steven F Son	Zubin Jacob
Andres Arrieta Diaz	Diane Collard	James Braun	Jungwoo Leem	Meng Cui	Ramses Martinez	Suresh K Mittal	
Andrew D Mesecar	Dimitrios Peroulis	James Dietz	Justin A Weibel	Meng Deng	Rita Ewura Aben Appiah	Thomas E Adams	
Andrew M Weiner	Donghan Ma	Jan Allebach	Karthik Ramani	Michael Harris	Robert Graham Cooks	Tian Li	
Arif Ghafoor	Eckhard Groll	Jeffrey M Siskind	Kaushik Roy	Milind Kulkarni	Robert Kramer	Tillmann C Kubis	
Arun K Ghosh	Emily C Dykhuizen	Jeffrey P Youngblood	Kee Hong Kim	Mitchell Reed Tuinstra	Robert Moon	Uzay E Emir	
Arun V Giridhar	Ernest Blatchley	Jeffrey T Miller	Kenneth H Sandhage	Mohammad Reza Jahanshahi	Rodney Wayne Trice		

EXPO 26 *KEYNOTES, SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS*



FOR A FULL LIST OF SPEAKERS WITH PHOTOS AND BIOS, VISIT OUR EVENT PAGE:
purdueinnovates.org/startup-expo

1:30pm **Welcome and Introduction** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Abhi Karve, Ph.D., Purdue Innovates Office of Technology Commercialization
Director of Business Development and Licensing

1:45pm **INCUBATOR OVERVIEW** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Justin Renfrow, Purdue Innovates Incubator Director

2:00pm **PERFECTING YOUR PITCH** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Chelsea Linder, TechPoint Vice President Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Integrating storytelling into your pitches not only makes your pitch more memorable, but also adds a personal touch. Chelsea will help bridge the gap between data and telling the story of your company to make your pitches more impactful.

2:30pm **COMPANY FOUNDATION** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Audrey Wessel, Gutwein Law Partner

Company Foundation will address why and when to form a business entity, initial governing documents and founder agreements, early-stage intellectual property considerations, and preparation for a first round of funding.

3:00pm **INVESTOR MATH** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Landon Young, Elevate Ventures Vice President of Pre-Seed

This presentation will provide an essential foundation for understanding cap tables, equity ownership, dilution, and the financial mechanics of early-stage investing. This discussion will help entrepreneurs and investors navigate the complexities of startup financing and equity structuring.

3:30pm **LICENSING 101** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Charlie Pruitt, J.D., Purdue Innovates Corporate Counsel

An introduction to university license agreements from option to execution. This session explains the structure of a typical IP license and its role in translating research into real-world impact.

4:00pm **Closing Remarks** CONVERGENCE LOBBY

5:00pm **Private Reception**

9:00am **Welcome and Introductions** CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Introduction by **Abhi Karve, Ph.D.**, Purdue Innovates Office of Technology Commercialization, Director of Business Development and Licensing

9:15am **Promising Technologies** CONVERGENCE LOBBY

CAPSTONE PLUS® LIGHTNING ROUND

Frederick Berry, D.Engr., Co-Director, Center for Technology Development, Purdue University and Professor at Purdue Polytechnic Institute's School of Engineering Technology

REINFORCED LEARNING IN ROBOTICS FOR MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES

GESTURE CONTROLLED DELIVERY ROBOTS

PHARMSAFE: NEW INSULIN PEN DESIGN (Track code 70283)

NANO-PARTICLE CARBON BLACK FINGERPRINGING TOOL (Track code 69201)

UNDERSEA AID MODULE (Track code 70827)

10:05am **Break / Demo Area** CONVERGENCE LOBBY + SUITE 1500

10:20am *COMMERCIALIZATION FELLOWS INNOVATION STORIES* CONVERGENCE LOBBY
Introductions by **Matt Dressler**, Purdue Innovates Incubator Funds Manager

POLYPEPTIDE NUCLEIC ACID NANOPARTICLE (LENN)

Saloni Darji, College of Science

FAST SCREENING TECHNOLOGY TO IDENTIFY PROMISING DRUG CANDIDATES EARLY

Teodora Kljaic, College of Pharmacy

MACHINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCELERATED DATA ANNOTATION

Pranshul Sardana, College of Engineering

CLEAR, HIGH-PROTEIN BEVERAGES WITH CLEANER SHELF-LIFE STABILITY

Sunandita Ghosh, College of Agriculture

11:00am *VC PANEL DISCUSSION* CONVERGENCE LOBBY

Moderated by **Travis Stegemoller**, General Counsel, gener8tor

Panelists: **Tyler Mantel**, Partner, Roll Tack Ventures; **Toph Day**, CEO of Elevate Ventures;

Gopal Rajarama, Venture Investor, Lockheed Martin; **Rene Lewin**, President at RRLCapital, LLC

11:45am **Lunch + Networking** CONVERGENCE LOBBY + SUITE 1500

1:00pm **Promising Startups** CONVERGENCE LOBBY

NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE PITCHES

Introduction by **Moe Simmons**, Purdue Innovates Incubator Program Manager

CalcGPT

Kova Group, Inc

VitaWave Tech, Inc.

echoSURE Inc.

Oppit

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 *(continued)*

[CLICK HERE FOR SPEAKER BIOS](#)

2:05pm **Information Session** FOUNDRY TRAINING ROOM

SiCATALYST

Don Esses, Advisor, Silicon Catalyst

The session will address why and when to form a business entity, initial governing documents and founder agreements, early-stage intellectual property considerations, and preparation for a first round of funding.

2:05pm **Keynote** CONVERGENCE LOBBY

GETTING TO MVP: PRODUCT INNOVATION IN HARD TECH

Grant Chapman, CEO of Glassboard

2:35pm **Break** CONVERGENCE LOBBY + SUITE 1500

2:45pm *INNOVATION ON CAMPUS* CONVERGENCE LOBBY

Moderated by **Doug Applegate**, Purdue Innovates Incubator Associate Director

Join us for an energizing conversation with Purdue Entrepreneurial Leaders:

Nathalie Duval-Couetil, Director, University Entrepreneurship Education Initiatives;

Tim Dixon, Managing Director, Purdue DIAL Ventures;

Kostas Grigoriou, Director, Springer Business Initiative, College of Engineering, Purdue University, and Professor, Daniels School of Business;

Brian Shepler, Associate Dean for Engagement and Partnerships at Purdue University;

Jessica Jud, Managing Director, Hub for Innovation Ventures and Entrepreneurship (HIVE) at Purdue University

3:15pm *NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE AWARDS* CONVERGENCE LOBBY

Hosted by **Justin Renfrow**, Purdue Innovates Incubator Director and

Doug Applegate, Purdue Innovates Incubator Associate Director

\$20,000 - 1st Place \$15,000 - 2nd Place \$10,000 - 3rd Place \$2,500 - Audience Favorite \$2,500 - Judges Favorite

3:30pm *SEMICONDUCTOR PANEL* CONVERGENCE LOBBY

Panelists: **Rouz Jazayeri**, Co-founder and Managing Director, Catapult Ventures

Tayo Adesanya, Founder & CEO, Lola Vision Systems

Anand Raghunathan, Associate Director, SRC/DARPA Center for Brain-Inspired Computing, Co-Director, Center for a Secure Microelectronics Ecosystem at Purdue University

4:15pm **Closing Remarks** CONVERGENCE LOBBY

5:00pm **Reception** CONVERGENCE

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 (continued)

Demo Area CONVERGENCE SUITE 1500

CAPSTONE PLUS®

Reinforced Learning in Robotics for Manufacturing Technologies

Gesture Controlled Delivery Robots

PharmSafe: New Insulin Pen Design

Nano-particle Carbon Black Fingerprinting Tool

Undersea Aid Module

COMMERCIALIZATION FELLOWS

POLYPEPTIDE NUCLEIC ACID NANOPARTICLE (LENN)

Saloni Darji, College of Science

FAST SCREENING TECHNOLOGY THAT HELPS IDENTIFY THE MOST PROMISING DRUG CANDIDATES EARLY

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MACHINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCELERATED DATA ANNOTATION

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CLEAR, HIGH-PROTEIN BEVERAGES WITH CLEANER SHELF-LIFE STABILITY

Sunandita Ghosh, College of Agriculture

NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE

CalcGPT

echoSURE Inc.

Kova Group, Inc.

Oppit

VitaWave Tech, Inc.

8:00am **Breakfast + Networking** SPURGEON CLUB

9:00am *OPENING PRESENTATION* SPURGEON CLUB
Brooke Beier, Ph.D., CLP, Purdue Innovates Senior Vice President

9:30am *PURDUE INNOVATES IP STARTUPS* SPURGEON CLUB
Introductions by **Abhi Karve**, Purdue Innovates Office of Technology Commercialization
Director of Business Development and Licensing

Movwize Advance Waste Processing Lyowave

9:55am **Career Opportunities Presentation** SPURGEON CLUB
PURDUE CENTER FOR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Learn about ways for Purdue students to get involved in startups

10:00am **Keynote** SPURGEON CLUB
COMMERCIALIZING AI
Tayo Adesanya, Founder & CEO, Lola Vision Systems
Calvin Hendryx-Parker, Co-founder and CTO, Six Feet Up, Inc.

10:30am **Session 1: Mentorship Networking** SPURGEON CLUB
Networking Groups by Industry - Lead by PAEN Members
Jennifer Lopez, Speaker, Bestselling Author, Coach, Owner of Jennie Lopez Enterprise;
Grant Chapman, CEO, Glassboard;
Mike McCracken, CEO, Freedom Energy

11:00am **Keynote** SPURGEON CLUB
OPEN INNOVATION
Sally Kay, Principal, Strategic Product Development
Dan DeLaurentis, Executive Vice President for Research, Purdue University

11:30am **Keynote** SPURGEON CLUB
FROM FOUNDATION TO FLYWHEEL: THE RISE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIANA
David Watkins, SVP of Entrepreneurship & Small Business at the IEDC

12:00pm **Lunch + Networking** SPURGEON CLUB

1:00pm **ACCELERATOR PITCHES** SPURGEON CLUB

Introductions by **Doug Applegate**, Purdue Innovates Incubator Associate Director and **Max Frischman**, Accelerator Program Manager

RESOLVR

<https://www.resolvr.io/> – Enables insurers to underwrite real-world insurance policies using bitcoin as compliant collateral, unlocking new underwriting capacity through a transparent, tokenized platform.

FIBERX

<https://fiberxproducts.com/> – Converts biomass into renewable molecules and polymers, creating sustainable alternatives to petrochemicals while generating new value for farmers.

SECOND OPINION

<https://www.secondopinion.law/> – Uses a multi-model AI platform to review legal documents, detecting errors, inconsistencies, and unsupported claims that single-model tools often miss.

EVOLINK SYSTEMS

<https://evolinksystems.com/> – Provides modular, off-site fabricated digital infrastructure platforms using timber-based construction for rapid, low-carbon deployment.

VIBE ROBOTICS

<https://www.viberobotics.co/> – Democratizing humanoid robotics with an affordable, open-source platform that enables researchers and consumers to build, train, and deploy capable humanoids.

1:45pm **Session 2: Mentorship Networking** SPURGEON CLUB

Networking Groups by Industry - Lead by PAEN Members

Jennifer Lopez, Speaker, Bestselling Author, Coach, Owner of Jennie Lopez Enterprise;

Grant Chapman, CEO, Glassboard;

Mike McCracken, CEO, Freedom Energy

2:30pm **Keynote** SPURGEON CLUB

*BUILDING DEEPTech STARTUPS LIKE GROQ AND THE
FUTURE OF COMPUTE IN THE AI ERA*

Dinesh Maheshwari, Former CTO of Groq
interviewed by **Tyler Mantel**, Roll Tack Ventures

Dinesh Maheshwari joins Tyler Mantel to discuss building deeptech startups, drawing lessons from his work at Groq. From the paradigms reshaping compute to the cultural and team dynamics required to execute unconventional ideas, this conversation explores what it takes to build at the frontier and where the future of compute is headed.

3:00pm **Closing Remarks** SPURGEON CLUB

3:30pm **Optional Tour** PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
MACKEY ARENA

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THE NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE

PITCH FINALS

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Nihar Bagkar
Kate Stanton
Raishma Anwar
Angelica Gonzalez
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Hassan Berbich
Ghali Berbich
Mehdi El Mansar
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T Hingba
Deepanshu Gupta

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MARY DOUGHERTY TechPoint
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