

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce,
Community & Economic Development



Mike Navarre
Commissioner

Abigail Enghirst 907.269.8159
Special Assistant abigail.enghirst@alaska.gov

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Contacts: Penny Gage
Statewide Organizing Committee Co-Chair
Alaska Division of Economic Development
(907) 269-7396
penny.gage@alaska.gov

Gretchen Fauske
Statewide Organizing Committee Co-Chair
Alaska Center for Economic Development
(907) 382-1811
gwfauske@alaska.edu

Third Annual Alaska Startup Week Promotes Entrepreneurship

November 9, 2018 ANCHORAGE – Entrepreneurs, investors, business leaders, and community members across the state will celebrate entrepreneurship during the third annual Alaska Startup Week from November 12 through 18, 2018. Alaska Startup Week features a variety of educational workshops, events, and meet-ups across the state.

“Ensuring that entrepreneurs have access to both essential resources and a support community is important to Alaska’s economy,” said Gretchen Fauske, associate director at the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, and co-chair of Alaska Startup Week. “Over the last decade, startups in Alaska consistently added 4,000 to 6,000 jobs to the economy each year. Firms that are five years or younger accounted for 89 percent of Alaska’s net employment growth in the private sector. Startup Week offers a great platform to support and celebrate this important segment of our economy.”

Alaska Startup Week is an opportunity to showcase opportunities for entrepreneurs and foster new connections that will build momentum around Alaska’s entrepreneurial landscape. It is a collaborative effort largely led by volunteer entrepreneurs, based on a model developed by Colorado-based Techstars, and sponsored by a handful of local organizations.

“I’m especially excited that so many entrepreneurs have stepped into leadership roles on organizing committees this year,” said Penny Gage, business development officer for the Alaska Division of Economic Development, and co-chair of Alaska Startup Week.

Since the first year, Alaska Startup Week has grown from three communities to nine. This year, events will be held in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kenai/Soldotna, Palmer, Seward, and Sitka. A comprehensive calendar at Alaska.StartupWeek.co lists more than 75 events being held around the state. Visit the [Alaska Startups](#) Facebook page for event highlights and to live-stream select events. Follow the week’s activities or contribute to the conversation using #AKStartupWeek and #BuildtheAlaskaYouWant.

Alaska Startup Week highlights from across the state include:

Anchorage

[Startup Weekend Pitches and Startup Week Launch Party](#)

Sunday, November 11 from 5:30 - 9:00 pm

Williwaw Restaurant, 609 F St.

Tickets \$25; select [Demo Day](#) option

Bethel

[“Best in the West” Information Session and Entrepreneur Meet-Up](#)

Wednesday, November 14 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Yupit Piciryarait Cultural Center, 420 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway

Free and open to the public

Fairbanks

[New Products Launch](#)

Thursday, November 15 from 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Venue, 514 2nd Ave.

Free and open to the public

Homer

[Entrepreneur Meet-Up and Starting and Growing Your Own Business](#)

Friday, November 16 from 10:00 – 11:00 am

Captain’s Coffee, 295 E Pioneer Ave.

Free and open to the public

Juneau

[Entrepreneur Meet-Up](#)

Wednesday, November 14 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

SALT Restaurant, 200 Seward St.

Free and open to the public

Kenai/Soldotna

[Panel - Options for Raising Capital](#)

Monday, November 12 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Soldotna Public Library, 235 N Binkley St.

Free and open to the public

Palmer

[Entrepreneur Meet-Up](#)

Wednesday, November 14 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Humdinger’s Pizza Warehouse, 173 S Valley Way

Free and open to the public

Seward

[Panel - Taking the First Step: Starting a New Business in Seward](#)

Thursday, November 15 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Seward Community Library, 239 6th Ave.

Free and open to the public

Sitka

[Film Screening - Dream, Girl](#)

Monday, November 12 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Coliseum Theater, 331 Lincoln St.

Free and open to the public

Statewide sponsors for 2018 Alaska Startup Week are the [State of Alaska Division of Economic Development](#), the [University of Alaska Center for Economic Development](#), the [Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority](#), the [Alaska Small Business Development Center](#), [Alaska SCORE](#), and the [Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation](#). [Techstars](#) supports entrepreneurs globally through a seed accelerator program and through nationwide programs like Startup Week.

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