General Registration is closed. Walk-up registration is available for $125.

Join us at the 2017 Rice Alliance IT and Web Venture Forum

2017 Investor Office Hours Company Directory

More than 350 leading investors and promising startups in IT/Web/Software will converge at the Largest IT Venture Capital Forum in the Southwest on January 19, 2017, at Rice University.

Promising Information Technology, web, and software start-up companies will pitch their companies to venture capitalists, investors, mentors, business & corporate leaders and industry experts. Since 1999, more than 30% of the start-up companies pitching at past Rice Alliance Technology Venture Forums have raised funding, totaling over $2.1 billion.

Feedback from attendees at last year’s Forum:

“This is the best run entrepreneurial event I have ever attended. Logistics and quality of attendees were outstanding.”

“I was told by a VC that he thought this was the best event for entrepreneurs in Texas. The event lived up to those expectations.”

“This was such a great event. It was obviously well planned and the quality of the participants was very high.”

“Great networking.”

“I saw plenty of investable companies.”

“I met a lot of other investors I did not know before.”

Why Attend?

• Get a first-look at emerging IT/software startups
• Network with over 100 investors
• Hear from leading venture capitalists and investors
• Meet start-ups one-on-one during the Company Showcase and Reception
• Learn what is required to get outside funding for your start-up company
• Network with over 400 members of the Texas and the Southwest region entrepreneurial ecosystem
• Learn what is included in a successful investor pitch
2017 Venture Forum Agenda

Thursday, January 19, 2017

8:00 – 9:00 AM  Registration

9:00 – 9:15 AM  Welcoming Remarks
Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance

9:15 –9:45 AM  Morning Keynote Speaker
Robert Winter, Founder and Managing Director, daVinci Capital, Menlo Park, CA

9:45 –10:30 AM  Company Pitches

10:30 – 11:00 AM  Networking Break

11:00 – Noon  Company Pitches

12:00 – 1:00 PM  Lunch and Networking

1:00 – 1:30 PM  Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Panel– Navigating the Expanding Resources Available for Startups
- Rachelle Aspan, Houston Technology Center
- Apurva Sanghavi, START Houston
- Neeraj Tandon, Sketch City, City of Houston Hackathon
- Patrick Talley, Aging 2.0/Houston

1:30 – 2:20 PM  Company Pitches

2:20 – 2:50 PM  Networking Break

2:50 – 3:30 PM  Station Houston Showcase & Company Pitches
John (JR) Reale, Co-founder and Managing Director, Station Houston

3:30 - 4:00 PM  Accelerators, Angels, and VCs: Finding the Right Partners to Successfully Build Your Startup
- Lauren-Kristine (LK) Pryzant, Mercury Fund
- Gabriella Draney Zielke, Tech Wildcatters
- Gary Forni, Central Texas Angel Network
- Cody Cupp, Houston Angel Network

4:00 - 4:30 PM  Closing Keynote: Robert Stevenson, Chief Technology Strategist, Aptiviti

4:30 – 4:40 PM  Awards Recognition – Most Promising Companies
Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance for Technology and
Entrepreneurship

4:30 – 6:00 PM  
Company Showcase and Networking Reception

Quick Facts
Nine Rice affiliated start-ups have received grants from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund

Recent Speakers
Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business
George R. Brown School of Engineering
Wiess School of Natural Sciences

Company Spotlight

Earned Excellence

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Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship
Rice University
### MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Robert S. Winter**  
Managing Director  
daVinci Capital Group  
davincicapitalgroup.com

Robert Winter is a high-performance individual with a broad business, start-up, venture capital, angel investment, private equity and senior management skill set -- and with significant subject matter knowledge in many high technologies. A long time investor, both as a venture capitalist and as an angel investor, having been directly involved in over 35 venture capital and angel investments – 1/2 with positive exits (of that 1/2 or 1/4 of total IPOed and the other 1/2 were bought), 1/4 failed and 1/4 are unrealized -- for a delivered lifetime realized 6x cash-on-cash return on equity.

With early-stage venture investments having included – nVidia (NVDA), NetApps (NTAP), Pharmacyclics (PCYC), Sequana Therapeutics (SGNA), Financial Interactive, eHealth (EHTH), Active Network (ACTV), ustream.tv, BiologicsMD, ZoMazz, TNG Pharma, Numat, SiNode, Medical Adhesions Revolution, DryLet, neurable, Gecko Robotics and others.

Additionally, he has served as the CEO of two startups (both successful bought) and as Chairman of the Board. Further, he currently serves on the Board of Directors or as an Advisor to a number of start-up companies.

Presently, as Managing Director, he manages daVinci Capital Group, an investment firm primarily focused venture capital investing and advising. Prior, he was a Founding Managing Partner of Rocket Ventures, an $75M early-stage venture capital firm focused on software, Internet and semiconductors. Previously, he founded the Menlo Park Group where he identified technology-oriented buyout targets and provided strategic consulting to corporations and entrepreneurial ventures. Earlier, Robert was a General Partner at Comdisco Ventures and Senior Associate at Canaan Partners, both venture capital investment firms. He has served in senior management positions at Hewlett-Packard, Informatic General Corporation and IBM.

Robert, besides actively working with start-up companies, has served on a number of non-profit Board of Directors or as an Advisor – including The Rice Alliance, Harvard Business School Tech Alumni, vtTaskForce, CTIC Capital and Hiller Aviation Museum. He has lived in the Bay Area/Silicon Valley for many years. He holds a BSEE from Rice University and an MBA from Harvard University.
daVinci Capital Group is an investment firm focused on gaining substantial minority ownership in microCap public companies (under $250 million market value) in selected technology sectors. Our objective is to act as a catalyst for growing these microCaps into smallCap companies ($250 million to $1.5 billion market value) with significantly higher valuations and greater liquidity. We invest our own capital while actively working with management and their boards to jointly develop and execute growth strategies that often include business combinations with other microCap and later-stage private companies in addition to internal growth initiatives. We only invest in a cooperative manner and do not take hostile or “Activist” approaches.

We believe that there are many exciting opportunities to create significant share value appreciation in public microCap companies. We focus on companies that need capital to execute good growth plans. These companies often have proven products, scalable technologies and existing customers, but may be currently too small to attract institutional investors and research support. We seek companies with these characteristics and help them grow with our capital, experience and connections.

Entrepreneurship Ecosystem –
Navigating the Expanding Resources Available for Startups

Rachelle Aspan
Director of Client Acceleration for the Information Technology Sector
Houston Technology Center

Rachelle serves at the Director of Client Acceleration for the Information Technology Sector. She provides tactical business expertise to Houston based startup companies within the HTC Client program. Rachelle is a proficient financial professional with extensive experience in managerial and executive level finance and technology related positions. She has worked with both private and public companies including working with 3rd party proprietary technologies. She has managed teams responsible for the implementation and maintenance of proprietary software as well as assisted companies with various transitions or expansions into the commercial space.

Houston Technology Center
houstontech.org

Named by Forbes as one of “Ten Technology Incubators Changing the World,” and as one of “Twelve Business Incubators Changing the World,” the Houston Technology Center is the largest technology business incubator and accelerator in Texas, advancing the commercialization of emerging technology companies in the greater Houston area. HTC serves as the nexus of new ideas, technological innovation, and entrepreneurship. Each day, the staff and partners of the Houston Technology Center work closely with entrepreneurs and startup companies providing them with in-depth strategic and tactical business guidance, fundraising advice, and connecting them to opportunities, allies, and capital. As a catalyst for change, economic growth and development, HTC’s focus is to assist in the acceleration and commercialization of emerging technology companies. Each company is treated individually according to their position in the Acceleration Pathway and their unique needs. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, HTC assists Houston-based entrepreneurs within several key sectors: energy, information technology, life sciences, nanotechnology, and NASA/aerospace. The Houston Technology Center is generously supported by more than 300 of Houston’s leading corporations and academic institutions, as well as the Greater Houston Partnership, NASA-Johnson Space Center and the City of Houston. Since 1999, HTC has provided feedback to well over 1,000 companies and coached more than 250 companies.

Apurva Sanghavi
Cofounder
START Houston

START’s cofounder Apurva is a sales leader and manager with experience in
team building and growth of small to large sales forces. Apurva has worked in both the Real Estate world and the online space has offered a unique background for building a new age real estate lending company. Apurva has a strong passion for entrepreneurship and has extensive experience in running companies.

START Houston
starthouston.com

START Houston is a unique, collaborative, work environment located in the heart of East of Downtown (EaDo), Houston. We aim to provide a professional and fun space for designers, developers, freelancers, entrepreneurs, employees and thought leaders to collaborate together in the technology space. There is something for everyone at START! Immerse yourself with peers challenging the boundaries of web and mobile apps. Get critical feedback from leading investors and advisors. Earn business opportunities from tech companies like ChaiONE. Learn and grow from events and speakers available exclusively to members.

Neeraj Tandon
Onboarding Committee Director
Sketch City’s City of Houston Hackathon

Neeraj Tandon is currently leading the onboarding committee for Sketch City’s City of Houston Hackathon, an annual gathering of hundreds of software developers, designers, policy folks, and people who want to make Houston a better place to live. Previously, Neeraj led a successful hackathon team at the City of Houston hackathon that developed technology solutions to combat human trafficking. The solutions they developed are still in use by local law enforcement and abolition groups to this day. He holds degrees in engineering and medicine and has a passion for community organizing.

Sketch City’s City of Houston Hackathon
sketchcity.org
houstonhackathon.com

Sketch City is a nonprofit community of over 2,000 people who advance technology and data in public decision making. We collaborate online and in person to build projects for the public good. In addition to weekly hack nights, we host the annual City of Houston Hackathon where hundreds of Houstonians come together for 24 hours to build dozens of apps and data visualizations.

Patrick Talley
Ambassador
Aging2.0, Houston Chapter

Patrick Talley is the Founder of HeraTrack a wearable device for people with dementia. He is also creator and Founder of 3 apps; (1) EasyPhone (makes smartphones easier for people with cognitive challenges) (2) Swaha and (3) stories etc., Board of Directors of Peach Outreach (Uterine Cancer Awareness and Research Funding), Founder and VP Sales/Marketing of various tech start-ups. 30+ years selling technology solutions to Fortune 500, specialize in opening new markets and new technologies, revenue generation and has closed over $250,000,000.00 of high margin technology (software) business. In 2011-2014 he worked at developing joint ventures in the energy sector for two of the largest service providers. As well as taking over an ailing sales force for a division of one of those service providers—dismantled, rebuilt, and successfully brought that group back on track, to double then triple revenue. Early years were at Landmark Graphics (prior to acquisition by Halliburton) and Trilogy Software of Austin, Texas. His most recent venture is the creation of HeraTrack, a wearable monitor/tracking device for people with dementia and other cognitive challenges who go on "elopements". HeraTrack, founded in 2015 is an early stage company which has already garnered great support from some of the biggest players in CCRC and studies on Gerontology. Patrick is the Author of 10 books & counting, available at: www.amazon.com and an award winning nature photographer: www.talleyphotography.com
Aging2.0, Houston
aging2.com/houston

Aging2.0 is a global innovation network on a mission to accelerate innovation to improve the lives of older adults around the world. Aging2.0 connects, educates and supports innovators through community (Aging2.0 Alliance and Chapters), events, startup programs and content. Over the past 4 years, Aging2.0 has hosted more than 300 events around the world, cultivating a robust ecosystem of entrepreneurs, technologists, designers, investors, senior care providers and older adults themselves. Aging2.0 works to bring the worlds of senior care and innovation together. Supporting technologists and entrepreneurs as they develop new products and services to fit within the needs and opportunities of the aging industry - and vice versa - working with key leaders in senior care and senior housing organizations to introduce them to cutting-edge technology and help them integrate innovation into their businesses. Founded in 2012 by Katy Fike and Stephen Johnston, Aging2.0 is passionate about changing the conversation around aging from 1.0 (focused on challenges, exclusively medical, siloed approaches) to 2.0 (collaborative, lifestyle oriented, opportunity driven) - hence the name: Aging2.0. Aging2.0 is run by a small, dedicated, mission-driven team out of San Francisco, California. Aging2.0’s 40+ volunteer-run Chapters span the globe with chapters across Europe, Asia, United States, Canada, Brazil and Australia. For more information, please email info@aging2.com

Station Houston Showcase & Company Pitches

John Reale
Managing Director
Station Houston

ABOUT ME:
I'm passionate about helping others, learning and entrepreneurship. I've helped a variety of early-stage companies and founders overcome leadership, funding, strategy, and execution related challenges resulting from rapid change, lack of sales and / or not achieving product-market fit. Specifically, I have worked with early-stage companies in either operating roles or as an advisor / mentor. I believe in bringing people together, solving problems and getting things done the right way. Now, we're leading a movement to help transform Houston's high-tech startup community into a leading hub for tech innovation and entrepreneurship.

MY PURPOSE & VALUES
To inspire and be inspired. I believe great organizations share a sense of purpose as to why they exist and what they can achieve. I believe leaders listen, clarify purpose, then inspire action.

IMPACTS
Built teams and developed people; Helped take new technologies to market; Ramped sales for early-stage companies; Improved operating efficiency; Developed strategic partnerships; Secured funding; Implemented various business and corporate strategy plans, including go-to-market plans and sales strategies.

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT
Greatest reward is being part of something greater than yourself and having fun doing so!

SKILLS & AREAS OF FOCUS
Start-ups; Mentoring; Funding Strategies; Business Building; Constructing Sales and Marketing Strategies / Teams; Customer Development; Sales Execution; Strategy; Product-market fit; Corp Development; Business Building; Bringing Volume; Giving Hugs in the Office

Station Houston
stationhouston.com

Station is Houston’s tech community hub. We connect entrepreneurs with the mentors, talent, coworking space, accelerator programs, and investors they need to launch high-impact, high-growth startups.

Studies show that startups succeed if they have access to experienced mentors, diverse talent and leadership, practical education, and an active network. At Station, you get all this and more: Expert mentors, an experienced and knowledgeable team, insightful programs, and a proactive work environment that fosters connection and collaboration.
COMMUNITY
Community comes first at Station. Built by entrepreneurs, for entrepreneurs, we empower you to build fruitful relationships by connecting you with our networks and with each other.

PROGRAMS
Take advantage of our educational and social events: Join us for Lunch & Learn’s, fireside chats, hands-on workshops, community-driven meetups, business bootcamps, hackathons and more!

WORKSPACE
Station offers a vibrant creative culture and a collaborative environment with diverse shared work spaces, private offices, and bookable conference and meeting rooms.

RESOURCES
Our Partners and Mentors can actively help you grow your business. We also create and share resources that you and your company can benefit from!

MENTORSHIP
Our expert Mentors and experienced team offer office hours and workshops to provide impactful advice and introductions.

ECOSYSTEM
Station offers you access to angel investors, venture capitalists, research and academic institutions, business groups and non-profit organizations that can help you grow your company at scale.

PANEL: Accelerators, Angels, and VCs – Finding the Right Partners to Successfully Build Your Startup

Lauren-Kristine Pryzant
Senior Analyst
Mercury Fund

Lauren-Kristine Pryzant is a Senior Analyst at Mercury Fund. She works with the investment team on deal sourcing, investment diligence, and the support of portfolio companies. Lauren-Kristine is an active part of the startup ecosystem in Houston and the middle of the U.S., serving as a mentor at Techstars, TMCx, and the OwlSpark/RED Labs accelerators. She also is a frequent lecturer at the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University and the University of Houston Bauer College of Business. In addition, Lauren-Kristine is on the Springboard Tech Council, the University of Houston Cougar Ventures Advisory Board, and serves philanthropically on the Prison Entrepreneurship Program Advisory Board. She graduated with highest honors in finance from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC Chapel Hill, where she was a Morehead-Cain Scholar.

Mercury Fund
mercuryfund.com

Mercury Fund is an early-stage venture capital firm. With over $200 million under management, Mercury focuses on entrepreneurs and technology innovation originating in the U.S. Midcontinent. Our investment themes target SaaS, Cloud, and Data Science/AI platforms that make the industrial ecosystems of Middle America more competitive and efficient. Over a decade ago, Mercury recognized the rise of entrepreneurs and innovation in the underinvested Midcontinent. Our venture investment strategy leverages our unparalleled network of midcontinent startup development organizations, corporate innovation partners, and co-investors to assist entrepreneurs with the resources they need to rapidly scale their businesses. We have spent our professional careers advising, mentoring, and investing in Mid-American entrepreneurs. We believe now, more than ever, the Midcontinent represents a great venture capital opportunity.

Gabriella Draney Zielke
Cofounder and CEO
Tech Wildcatters

Gabriella Draney Zielke is Cofounder and CEO of Tech Wildcatters, a Forbes Top 10 seed accelerator for startups. With more than 13 years in the entrepreneurial world, she has experience in strategy, fund-raising and corporate innovation. She is passionate about helping startups connect the dots and has built a significant network to help her do just this. With a diverse group of mentors, investors and entrepreneurs who are on speed dial, Gabriella is willing to go the extra mile to help up and coming businesses
become viable and scalable. Prior to starting Tech Wildcatters, Gabriella was with HP Growth Partners, an early stage venture fund in Dallas, where she served on the Board of CelAccess. Before attending business school at SMU, Gabriella was a serial entrepreneur with experience in software, aviation, finance, and nutrition. It is this real world experience and appreciation for having skin in the game that makes her so valuable to the innovation ecosystem. Gabriella received her MBA in Strategy & Entrepreneurship from Southern Methodist University as a Cox Distinguished Merit Scholar, during which she interned for Silver Creek Ventures. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of North Texas with a BBA in Finance. Gabriella currently serves on the Board of UNT’s School of Arts and Sciences, the Dallas Regional Chambers’ Innovation Council, the newly formed Mayor of Dallas’ Digital Strategy team, and the Greater Dallas Workforce Solutions Board, which disburses funds for the Texas Workforce Commission. She currently lives in Dallas with her son Philip and if you can’t find her behind her laptop, she’ll most definitely be kite boarding, running or on an airplane to a far off land.

Tech Wildcatters

We broke the accelerator model -- Launched in 2009, Tech Wildcatters established itself as one of the first 15 accelerators in the world and fast became a leading, nationally-ranked accelerator by Forbes in 2012 and Inc. Magazine in 2015. By the end of 2015, we’d invested in 72 startups, helped create more than 450 jobs and saw four exits. The market had also become extremely saturated, with an estimated 7,500 accelerators around the world with varying expertise, interests and quality standards. As one of the longest running accelerators in the world, we’ve had the unique opportunity to obtain firsthand wisdom on what works (and what doesn’t) within an accelerator. We carry with us the knowledge on founders who make it, those who don’t, we have lessons learned, endless amounts of historical data and a peek inside the vision of those who mentor alongside us. With that information in hand, we saw the need to initiate change within our market and fix the areas we know are not beneficial for our investors and are especially not beneficial for our startups. And in 2016, we broke our own model and introduced The Gauntlet. We are now the first accelerator in the world to unveil what we believe the new accelerator should be — a genuinely smart decision for the startups who enter and the investors who buy in. We are now purely fueled by a 5-tier system infused with data, milestones and most importantly, ambition. Follow us on Twitter: @techwildcatters

Gary Forni
Angel Investor
Central Texas Angel Network

Chief Executive Officer with proven track record of growing companies from early-stage on. As an entrepreneur and investor I focus on disruptive technologies with the potential to overturn large established markets. The right idea is one that solves problems that are pervasive, urgent and customers are willing to pay for. I am not interested in technology for technology’s sake, it must solve a customer problem - and the best way to know is to ask them! In large corporations I have a history of turning multi-million dollar product lines and businesses from market share losers to growth machines through an established pattern of long-term strategy, short term goals and disciplined organizational focus on top customers. Results focused with emphasis on change-able thinking in large corporations and chaos management in start-ups. Adept at starting new businesses within a larger corporate environment. World-class business partnering expertise having built organizations at multiple companies domestically as well as in China, Japan, Sweden and Brazil.

Specialties: Chief Executive Officer, Angel investor, start ups, general management, entrepreneur, fund raising, disruptive innovation, business
strategy, business development, go-to-market strategy, strategic alliances and partnerships, marketing, international experience, computer and mobile industry - both semiconductor and software, revenue growth, entrepreneur, Angel, Board of Directors

Central Texas Angel Network (CTAN)  
centraltexasangelnetwork.com

Mission
Central Texas Angel Network (CTAN) is the largest angel investing network in Texas, and the #1 most active single-chapter group in the nation (for 2015).

CTAN’s mission is two-fold:
1. Provide quality early-stage investment opportunities for accredited angel investors
2. Assist entrepreneurs and early-stage growth companies by serving as a key source of funding, mentorship, strategic advice, and educational resources.

Key Statistics:
- More than 165 angel investors with diversity in countless sectors and significant functional expertise
- Investments of $75M in more than 135 startup companies since CTAN’s founding in 2006
- Over $13M invested in 43 companies (new and follow-on) in 2015 alone
- Five funding cycles per year, in which startups are formally screened and evaluated by members

Background
CTAN was founded in 2006 by local investors and community leaders, who believed that early-stage investing could provide a meaningful return for investors while also spurring local economic growth. Individual members of the organization volunteered their time and expertise to review potential investments and assist entrepreneurs. Central Texas benefits from having an organized group of angels that aid local entrepreneurs in need of capital and/or expertise to build their businesses. Angel investors are a necessary funding option that keeps the startup environment thriving. In Central Texas, there is a large pool of high-net-worth individuals, family offices, and investment funds with business experience who are looking for investment opportunities and who enjoy being involved with entrepreneurial ventures. CTAN provides a structured forum for such individuals to cooperatively source and vet deal flow.

Management
CTAN is an independent nonprofit membership organization. CTAN has a full-time Executive Director, a full-time Investment Manager, and a fully engaged volunteer Board of Directors and leadership committees whose time, effort, and involvement allow CTAN to fulfill its mission for investors and entrepreneurs.

Cody Cupp
Angel Investor  
Houston Angel Network

Cody attended the College of Liberal Arts at Texas Tech University as well as the College of Business at the University of North Texas. Cody has more than two decades of IT engineering and business development experience specializing in helping clients find the right solution to meet their business goals. He has earned numerous awards and acclaims by technology partners over the past decade. Beginning in 1992, Cody worked in the banking and finance industry for companies such as the First State Bank of Texas, Compucom Systems, Inc. and Anixter Inc., helping a large community banking group grow their footprint. In 1999, he moved into sales and engineering roles for Cisco Systems where he remained for nearly a decade as a Sales Engineer and Sales Specialist. Working in a wide range of verticals and with an even wider range of customers such as large government entities and Fortune 100 companies, Cody helped clients leverage technology that lead to real business outcomes, including network infrastructures, NMS, wireless, unified communications, virtualization, SaaS, IaaS, and others. In 2009 Cody co-founded, built, grew and successfully exited Antero Solutions, Inc., one of Houston’s premier Cisco integration companies. Merging with another IT service company in June of 2011, they were able to build a highly profitable business providing a wide variety of offerings. In 2014 Cody founded UNEELABS, LLC which is a technology incubation company that brings products and services to market. Focused on key verticals such as Energy, Healthcare, and Retail, UNEELABS works with an ecosystem of technologists, data scientists,
and business process experts to develop solutions that enhance enterprise businesses. For the past 6 years, Cody has enjoyed leveraging old and new skills to build sustainable companies delivering real value to their stakeholders through technology incubation, angel investing, and entrepreneurship.

**Houston Angel Network**

The Houston Angel Network (HAN) is the oldest angel network in Texas and most active angel network in the USA. Its members have invested more than $73M in more than 235 deals since its inception in 2001. In 2015, HAN members invested $12M in 43 deals. The typical individual HAN member is an accredited investor seriously interested in providing capital and coaching to early stage companies. HAN also has institutional members such as seed funds, accelerators, universities, and other networks within the innovation ecosystem. HAN is a non-profit association that does not charge fees to entrepreneurs; its revenue consists of membership fees and sponsorships.

**AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Robert L. Stevenson – Chief Technology Strategist Aptiviti**

Chief Strategist @ Hitachi & Chief Technology Strategist @ HDS

Mr. Stevenson was critical to the creation of Hitachi IoT Industries business unit including the acquisition of Pentaho to seed the business unit. Mr. Stevenson also advised the business development and engineering teams at Hitachi Data Systems on SSD acquisitions, deduplication technology investment, next generation infrastructure as a service capabilities, data analytics and long term R&D efforts in Quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence.

Chief Technology Officer @ Isilon

Prior to joining Hitachi, Mr. Stevenson was a CTO at EMC (Isilon) for Global Accounts. At EMC Mr. Stevenson presented future roadmaps to EMC’s global CIO/CTO customers and worked with Engineering on next generations systems, prior to EMC Mr. Stevenson had roles as a Chief Technology Architect at XiO and Engineering Strategy at Solidfire, both start-up companies in the SSD (Solid-State-Disk) market.

Managing Director @ 451 Group

Mr. Stevenson was the Managing Director of TheInfoPro, a company formed with Gideon Gartner, analyzing Fortune 1000 organizations which was later sold to 451 Group. TheInfoPro was the first primary market research company Aptiviti invested in and became the blueprint for ETR.

Chief Technologist @ Nielsen TV Ratings

Prior to TheInfoPro, Mr. Stevenson was Chief Technologist at Nielsen Media Research, building their first global shared SAN and expanding their Web service offerings. Mr. Stevenson has also held strategic engineering and management roles at Sun Microsystems, Ernst & Young LLP and Motorola.

Mr. Stevenson is unique in the industry for having highly successful roles as a strategic end user, a strategic analyst and a technology executive. Mr. Stevenson is a honorable veteran of the USMC, served with the Marine Wing Communication Squadron 48 during Desert Storm. Mr. Stevenson holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and M.S. in Computer Science from Illinois Tech.

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**Quick Facts**

- #1 University Entrepreneurship Center in the U.S. for Enterprise Creation by the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers – 2007

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**Recent Speakers**

- Company Spotlight
- Earned Excellence

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2017 Venture Forum Presenting Companies

2017 Investor Office Hours Company Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenting Company</th>
<th>Company Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>2DA Analytics</td>
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EVENT INFORMATION

14th Annual IT and Web Venture Forum
January 19, 2017
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Jones Graduate School of Business
McNair Hall, Rice University

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Vigilant Aerospace Systems

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vigilantaerospace.com
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quick Facts</th>
<th>Recent Speakers</th>
<th>Company Spotlight</th>
<th>Earned Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 University Entrepreneurship Center in the U.S. for Enterprise Creation by the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers – 2007</td>
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</table>
2015 Venture Forum Participating Investors

Invited Investors:

Aggie Angel Network
ATX Seed Ventures
BADR Investments
Bandgap Ventures
Baylor Angel Network
Clear Spring Capital Group
Comerica
Concho Valley Angel Network
Cowtown Angels
Creeris Ventures
CTAN
Cypress Growth Capital
Dallas Venture Partners
DreamIT Ventures
G-51 Capital Management
Hill Country Angel Network
Houston Angel Network
LiveOak Venture Partners
Lubbock Angel Network
Mercury Fund
North Texas Angel Network
Palmetto Partners
RedHouse Associates
S3 Ventures
Seed Sumo
Seedstep Angels
Silver Creek Ventures
Silverton Partners
South Coast Angel Network
START Investor Network
SURGE Ventures
Tablespoon Ventures
Tech Wildcatters
TechStars Austin
Texas Halo Fund
Texas Ventures
Texoma Angels
TIE Houston
Tyler Texas Angel Network
UH Cougar Venture Fund
West Texas Angel Network

2017 Company Showcase & Reception Sponsor

2017 Host Sponsors

2017 Supporting Sponsors

Quick Facts

2010 Ranked #6 in the U.S. Princeton Review & Entrepreneurship magazine

Recent Speakers

Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business
George R. Brown School of Engineering
Wiess School of Natural Sciences

Company Spotlight

Earned Excellence

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Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship
Rice University
Testimonials from the 2014 Rice Alliance Information Technology and Venture Capital Forum

What worked well at the 2014 Information Technology and Venture Capital Forum?

“Excellent, valuable forum. This is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs and investors to learn, network and make deals.”

“The organization and insertion of the panels in between the various pitches was great. Investor Hours was also excellent. Probably the best part for entrepreneurs.”

“The quality of the panel was excellent. They provided great insight, information and how to.”

“The Venture Capitalist Panel was the best ever. Great guys that actually do early stage deals and gave great advice. Well done and the final question session with your word relationship was superb.”

“Time management was very good.”

“Carefully executed and seamless on the logistics side. Also, I thought Jan's keynote was one of the best "entrepreneurship talks I've seen. He was well-prepared and had a fantastic story.”

“Company Presentations were on time!”

“Everything (was good)!”

“Good mix of people and voices.”

“Good organization of events and tracks.”

“Good overall pace and content.”

“Great engagement between investors and entrepreneurs.”

“Great job as always. Well organized.”

“Great logistics, diverse crowd.”

“I enjoyed it all. Nice networking breaks.”

“The Rice Alliance staff always do a great job.”

“Brad did an amazing job as the MC for the event. The venue, food, setup and professionalism by everyone hosting the event was top-notch.”

“It was great!”

“Great experience all around, and getting an award didn't hurt either. It was a vindication for us.”

“Great job.”

“I love the 30 minute break concept, perfect chance to get to network and hit the head. Or grab a drink.”

“One of the best parts of the Rice ecosystem.”

“Overall a great event, and I will attend next year!”

“Thank you so much!”

“The host was a pro!”

“The keynote speakers were great and their talks were aimed at the entrepreneurs who made up the majority of the audience, so that was very useful.”

“Very well done as always. Outstanding performance.”

“Very well done. I really enjoyed the event.”

“Investor Office hours were really great. It was great to have 1:1 and get some feedback and responsiveness to our business--- albeit short.”

“Investor panels and keynote speakers were great.”

“Just about everything worked well.”

“Keynote speakers were great.”

“Loved the different presentation styles.”

“Office Hours provides a unique opportunity for companies to get face to face feedback which is incredibly useful.”
“Office Hours was the best part of the event.”
“Office Hours were efficient, diverse and interesting. Sam was great with communication and accommodation.”
“Overall good.”
“Pitches and Presentations. Loved the final closing keynote.”
“Really enjoyed the panel conversations.”
“Stayed on schedule.”
“The format was effective.”
“The investor hours “speed dating” is extremely valuable to businesses.”
“The investor hours were the most valuable for us, by far!”
“The investor office hours ran smoothly and everyone was kept on time.”
“The office hours were extremely valuable to us. Thank you for organizing this really productive event.”

What Value did you gain from attending the forum?
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What Value did you gain from attending the forum?
“A lot. All around, from investors and from other entrepreneurs--- it was good exposure and learning experience.”
“Insight about the Houston temperature for venture capital and energy level innovation wise.”
“Connections and networking to the Houston and nearby VC, Angel and Accelerator community.”
“Contacts with potential funding sources.”
“Contacts, ideas, “don’t does”, reinvigorated.”
“Contacts, knowledge, financing leads.”
“Current market snapshot.”
“Excellent coverage of investing temperature.”
“Excitement about connecting to others in Houston in startup space!”
“To get to learn about companies.”
“Great networking!”
“Great schools of thought and good networking.”
“Greater awareness of deal stream.”
“Helpful connections for potential mentors for Village Capital and TMCx - thank you!”
“I brought a client who gained a lot of information from listening to the events speakers, watching other companies present, but even more so, got a chance to speak to two VC guys from your panel. They were great and he now has an opportunity to follow up with them.”
“I got to easily meet quite a few companies/investors/partners that would have been more difficult, given everyone’s schedule.”
“Information on what VC’s are looking for, as we are strategizing our Series A round.”
“Introduction to VC process, and how the presentations should go.”
“Learning more than my pea brain could absorb, digest and remember from the investor panels and key note speakers.”
“Learned some new IT systems and capabilities.”
“Learned tips on doing start-ups and using accelerators.”
“Lots of great follow up contacts, perhaps leading to funding round.”
“Lots of networking.”
“Made some great connections with people, learned a lot from other folks’ experiences.”
“More market insight.”
“Networking”
“Networking and a better understanding of the process to get venture capital.”
“Networking opportunities.”
“Networking, office hours.”
“New ideas and grew network, and saw old friends.”
“Our company was included in the 10 most promising companies awards, and this is validated decisions we have made regarding our pitch and helps us with our credibility in future pitch opportunities. Thank you!”
“Saw some interesting new companies and the panels + Jan were very informative. The accelerator panel was great.”
“Saw new companies and receive updates on those I have talked with in the past. Networking with other professionals.”
“Insight on current state of early stage investors.”
“Understand the rapidly changing landscape.”
“Updates on the incubator, angel and VC networks.”
“Valuable network contacts, insight into emerging trends, and more info re: the VC/Angel process.”
“Vision and fundraising opportunities. Encouraging. Increased my motivation to succeed.”

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