

NEW YORK STATE INNOVATION SUMMIT

New York State Innovation Summit

October 27 & 28, 2026 || Buffalo, New York

HOSTED BY

FUZEHUB

SUPPORTED BY

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Division of Science, Technology & Innovation

A Division of Empire State Development

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From startup spark to global scale, NYSTAR connects your business with the talent, tools, and technology to innovate and grow.

Empire State's Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) catalyzes New York's innovation ecosystem by connecting academia and industry and accelerating breakthrough technologies.

Our powerful portfolio supports innovation at every stage through:

Technology Advancement

NYSTAR catalyzes collaboration and partnerships between academia and industry and leverages federal investment with state support in strategic technology areas.

Manufacturing Assistance

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers across the state assist small- and mid-sized manufacturers to optimize their operations and accelerate technology adoption.

Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

An extensive network of incubators, hot spots, accelerators, and other supports to help clear barriers for entrepreneurs and start-ups to grow and thrive.

These programs drive commercialization and support high-growth business sectors. NYSTAR also advises critical technology initiatives, including Semiconductors, Quantum and AI, that make New York a global leader in innovation, now and in the future.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the power of the NYSTAR Network.

esd.ny.gov/innovation-development-support





















WELCOME TO THE

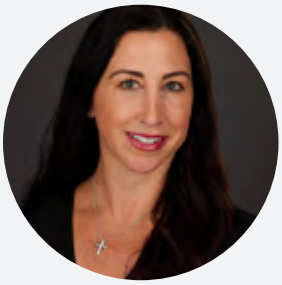
New York State Innovation Summit

What makes the New York State Innovation Summit truly special is the people who come together each year—visionaries, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and industry leaders who are shaping the future of New York State. This year, we are proud to gather in Buffalo, a city with a rich manufacturing legacy and a growing reputation as a hub for innovation, advanced technology, and economic transformation.

New York's innovation ecosystem continues to evolve, fueled by groundbreaking research, emerging technologies, and strategic investments that are strengthening our state's competitiveness. From advanced manufacturing and microelectronics to artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, clean energy, and emerging industries, the opportunities before us are extraordinary. At the center of this progress is the NYSTAR network, connecting businesses, researchers, and entrepreneurs with the expertise and resources needed to turn innovative ideas into real-world impact.

As we celebrate the achievements of our innovation community, we also look ahead with a shared commitment to building a stronger, more competitive, and resilient economy. The future of innovation depends not only on the technologies we develop, but on the partnerships we build and the collective determination to move bold ideas forward.

Thank you for being part of this important gathering and for the role you play in advancing New York's innovation economy. NYSTAR and FuzeHub welcome you to the 2026 New York State Innovation Summit and wish you two days of inspiration, meaningful connections, and new opportunities.



Elena Garuc

Executive Director
FuzeHub



Ben Verschueren

Executive Director
NYSTAR, Empire State Development


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RIT Center for Innovation in Manufacturing and Sustainability

APEX ACCELERATOR

RPI

AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

DAY ONE

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM • North & South Hall

Registration, Breakfast & Exhibit Hall Opens

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM • South Hall

Welcome Address

Dr. Everton H. Henriques, MA, HON
Director of Manufacturing and Technology Initiatives, FuzeHub

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM • South Hall

Keynote Speaker

Hope Knight, President, CEO, and Commissioner, Empire State Development

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM • South Hall

Sponsor Highlights

Richard Bourgeois, Director, Innovation Partnerships, NYSERDA

Per Stromhaug, Ph.D., Senior Associate Vice President for Economic Development, UB Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships

Joy Goswami, Immediate Past Chair, AUTM, Director Intellectual Property & Licensing, The Research Foundation for SUNY

Kreg Abbott, Director of Client Engagement, Homefield

Matt Marx, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and External Engagement, Cornell University

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM • South Hall

Keynote: NYSTAR Update

Ben Verschueren, Executive Director, ESD Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NYSTAR)

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM • South Hall

Leadership Discussion

The Quantum Revolution: What Comes Next

- **Charles (Chuck) Black, Ph.D.**, Deputy Associate Lab Director, Energy and Photon Sciences; Director, Co-design Center for Quantum Advantage (C2QA), Brookhaven National Laboratory
- **Eden Figueroa, Ph.D.**, Stony Brook Presidential Innovation Endowed Professor, Director of the Quantum Institute, Joint Appointment at Brookhaven National Laboratory
- **Anna W. Topol, Ph.D.**, CEO, Qlithic Technologies Inc

Moderated by **Ben Verschueren**, Executive Director, ESD Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NYSTAR)

Looking for the WiFi Information?

Network Name: CNYBiotech **Password:** innovation

WiFi courtesy of CNY Biotech Accelerator and Medical College

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM • Lower Level

Breakout Sessions

Story Alchemy: Building Innovation Through Visual Storytelling and Accessible Technology
ROOM 101D

- **Chris Cooley**, CEO & Co-Founder, Cooley Comics

NY State's Place in the New Space Economy
ROOM 106A

- **Kaylon Paterson**, CEO, Paterson Aerospace Systems, Corp.
- **Mason A. Peck, Ph.D.**, Professor of Astronautics, Cornell University
- **Joel B. Mozer, Ph.D.**, Senior Partner, Mind Set
- **Michael Zemcov, Ph.D.**, Professor, Astronomy, RIT
- **Steven McDonald**, Staff Manager, Propulsion Engineering, Moog

Moderated by **Patrick D. Chase**, Co-Founder & Chairman, Empire Space

Digital Twins in Healthcare: Building Virtual Patients to Accelerate Medical Research and Personalized Medicine
ROOM 101B

- **Mohammed Cherkaoui, Ph.D.**, Senior Vice President of Research & AI Intelligence, Long Island University
- **Adrian Buganza Tepole, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University
- **Jason Davies, MD, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Biomedical Informatics, SUNY Buffalo
- **Thomas E. Slowe**, CEO, Breadcrumb Analytics

Moderated by **Adam Volini**, Executive Director & VP, Life Sciences & Strategic Partnerships, Empire State Development

Commercialization Competition
BALLROOM

- **SUPERClean Glass**
- **Resolvia Biosciences**
- **Axenica Biosciences**

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM • North & South Hall

Lunch & Exhibit Hall

12:45 PM - 1:30 PM • Lower Level

NY Ventures Workshops

The Imperfect Pitch: Storytelling at Pre-Seed
Space is Limited - Registration Required
ROOM 105

Justin Kang, Co-Founder & Partner, Visible Hands

The Metrics That Matter: How Investors Evaluate Seed & Series A Startups
Space is Limited - Registration Required
ROOM 102

Ashley Ryder, Partner, VamosVentures

Investing in the Future
ROOM 104

- **Melissa Withers**, Founder and Managing Partner, RevUp Capital
- **Ian Daigle**, Investment Partner, Eastward Capital

Moderated by **Zack Pecenak, Ph.D.**, Director, Innovation, Venture Capital Fund, NY Ventures

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM • Lower Level

NY Ventures Workshops

ROOM 103

Concept to Contract: How to Capture First Money & First Pilots in DeepTech

- **Pete Mathias**, Founder & Investor, Reveille VC
- **Jon Schulhof**, Managing Partner, Newlab Fund
- **Andy Gollach**, Partner, SOSV HAX

Moderated by **Josh Nelson**, Senior Director, Pre-Seed & Seed Fund, NY Ventures

ROOM 104

Ten Dysfunctions of a Startup

Dan Goldsmith, Co-Founder & Partner, Proofpoint Capital

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM • Lower Level

Breakout Sessions

Show Me the Money: Help Us Fund You

ROOM 101B

- **Erin Corraro**, Deputy Director, WNY Regional Office, ESD
- **Laura Welch**, Director of Innovation Ecosystem Development, NYSTAR, ESD
- **Jennifer Tegan**, Managing Director-NY Ventures, ESD
- **Robert Beiderman**, Senior Project Manager-Life Sciences, ESD

Moderated by **Elizabeth Lusskin**, Executive Vice President - Small Business & Technology Development, ESD

NY MEP: Powering the Future of New York Manufacturing

ROOM 106A

- **Nate Pizzini**, Vice President and General Manager, Kennedy Valve
- **Steve Davis**, President, Tapecon
- **Robert Isoldi**, General Manager, Hitemco
- **Daniel Vrana**, Engineering Manager, Buffalo Manufacturing Works

Moderated by **Gregg Eagan**, President & CEO, Insyte Consulting

The Flexibility of Glass: Emerging Applications for Glass-Based Microelectronics

ROOM 101D

- **David Levy**, CTO, Mosaic Microsystems
- **Uttam Singisetti, Ph.D.**, Director of the Center for Advanced Semiconductor Technologies, University at Buffalo
- **Dan Blass**, LM Fellow, Lockheed Martin
- **Paul Janiszewski**, Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Manager, GE HealthCare

Moderated by **Seth Mulligan**, Chief Ventures Officer, Griffiss Institute

Commercialization Competition

BALLROOM

- **Eggstraordinary**
- **CarbonCLAIR**
- **Lucent EMS Solutions**

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM • South Hall

VCs Shaping Reindustrialization

Hosted by NY Ventures

Introduction by **Jennifer Tegan**, Managing Director, NY Ventures

- **Bryanna Samuels**, Senior Director, NY Ventures
- **Zak Schwarzman**, General Partner, MetaProp
- **Jeanne Casey**, Head of Nuveen Real Asset Ventures
- **Lisa Morales-Hellebo**, Founder & Managing General Partner, REFASHIOND Ventures

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM • North Hall

Welcome Reception

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

DAY TWO

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM • North & South Hall

Registration, Breakfast & Exhibit Hall Opens

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM • South Hall

Welcome Address

Elizabeth Lusskin, Executive VP, Small Business and Technology Development, Empire State Development

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM • South Hall

Keynote Speaker

Marco Aimi, Ph.D., Director of Research Operations, GE Vernova

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Lower Level

Breakout Sessions

So You Built a Prototype. Now What? The Essential Questions, Decisions, and Resources that Keep Startups Moving Forward

ROOM 101D

- **Eric Fasser**, Solutions Program Manager, FuzeHub
- **Cira Cardaci**, Executive Manager, NYC Innovation Hot Spot, CUNY
- **Frank Sardone**, Partner, Carter Deluca
- **Mike Marvin**, Program Manager, NextCorps
- **Bailey Burke**, Director, Hudson Valley Venture Hub

Navigating New York's Innovation Ecosystem

ROOM 106A

- **Mike Riedlinger**, Managing Director Tech Commercialization, NextCorps
- **Tamara Rosanio**, Associate Director, Partner Programs, Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy
- **Andrew Lee**, President, Innovio GEO
- **Zachary K. Pecenak, Ph.D.**, Director, Innovation Venture Fund, NY Ventures

Moderated by **Richard Bourgeois**, Director, Innovation Partnerships, NYSERDA

Strengthening America's Critical Materials & Rare Earth Elements Supply Chain Through Recovery & Recycling

ROOM 101B

- **Gabrielle Gaustad, Ph.D.**, Associate Provost for Research, Alfred University
- **Jim Lloyd**, Director of Marketing & PR, Sunnking
- **Edward Daniels**, Director of Strategic Programs, REMADE Institute
- **Alexa M. Schmitz**, CEO & Co-Founder, REEgen

Moderated by **Nabil Nasr, Ph.D.**, CEO, REMADE Institute and Associate Provost and Director of CIMS, RIT

Commercialization Competition

BALLROOM

- **CaroRhythm**
- **PSSP Technologies (OVAI)**
- **ProViZiGen**

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM • South Hall

Special Remarks

Shannon Ealy
Vice President of Innovation, OneROC,
Deputy Regional Innovation Officer, NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub

11:45 AM - 2:00 PM • South Hall

Door Prizes, Lunch & Competition Award Ceremony



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Investing in Innovation

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Biotech Accelerator
UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

The CNY Biotech Accelerator supports startups commercializing innovation in pharmaceuticals, biologics, medical devices, and digital health technologies.

We offer:

- On-site wet labs with fume hoods, biosafety cabinets, and shared equipment
- Upstate Biotech Ventures, an equity-based investment fund
- Virtual programming and support services for remote clients
- Access to academic medical center core facilities
- Preclinical and clinical development resources and support
- Strategic connections to commercialization partners
- Annual Medical Device Innovation Challenge (applications accepted January 1- March 1)

This comprehensive support ecosystem helps innovators accelerate the path from discovery to market-ready solutions.







UPSTATE BIOTECH VENTURES
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invests in high potential startups and small businesses affiliated with Upstate Medical University to drive research and technology innovation

A partnership of Empire State Development, Upstate Medical University, the SUNY Research Foundation and Excell Partners

Pitch us at: https://upstatebiotechventures.com

Syracuse, NY
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www.cnybac.com

KEYNOTES & REMARKS



Marco Aimi, Ph.D.

Director of Research Operations, GE Vernova

Marco Aimi is Director of Research Operations for GE Vernova's Advanced Research Center, a 500-person global organization headquartered in Niskayuna, NY. In this role, he heads EHS, research operations, security, digital technology and facilities, and led the build-out of the recently launched Frontier Campus, a more than $110 million investment by GE Vernova with support from the State of New York that has brought 75 new research positions to New York's Capital Region. Marco's career at GE spans two decades, beginning as a materials scientist and later serving as Innovation Leader for the Advanced Electronics team before stepping into his current role in 2023. A Vermont native, Marco has called New York home for the past 20 years, earning his undergraduate degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY before completing his Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara.



Charles Black, Ph.D.

Deputy Associate Laboratory Director, Senior Scientist, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Charles Black is Deputy Associate Laboratory Director for the Energy and Photon Sciences Directorate at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he is also a Senior Scientist. In this role, Charles coordinates the Directorate research activities in quantum information science, including those of the Brookhaven Lab-led Co-Design Center for Quantum Advantage (C2QA), a U.S. Department of Energy National Quantum Information Science Research Center. He works closely with scientific and Lab leadership to align research with broader institutional goals in quantum science and technology.

Charles is currently leading the NSRC Recapitalization Project, major DOE project to modernize the U.S. nanoscience infrastructure by developing and installing new instrumentation across six national laboratories in the DOE complex.



Shannon Ealy

Vice President of Innovation, OneROC
Deputy Regional Innovation Officer, NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub

Advancing collaboration, catalytic projects, and bold ideas across Upstate New York with public, private, and philanthropic partners.

OneROC is a capacity-building and coordination model that aligns investment across Greater Rochester's economic development ecosystem through a data-driven approach to regional branding, talent strategy, place-based revitalization, and business growth.

Also supporting the federally funded NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub as Deputy Regional Innovation Officer, helping advance cross-regional coordination across Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Ithaca around semiconductor supply chain development, workforce initiatives, and technology commercialization.

KEYNOTES & REMARKS



Eden Figueroa, Ph.D.

Presidential Innovation Endowed Professor, Stony Brook University

Prof. Eden Figueroa was awarded his BSc in Engineering Physics and his MSc in Optical Engineering at Monterrey Tech, Mexico in 2000 and 2002 respectively. From 2003 to 2008, he was a Ph.D. student in the Quantum Technology Group of Prof. A. I. Lvovsky at the University of Konstanz in Germany and later at the Institute for Quantum Information Science at the University of Calgary, Canada. His Ph.D. thesis entitled: "A quantum memory for squeezed light" was one of the first experimental implementations of quantum memory for quantized light fields. In 2009, he joined the Quantum Dynamics Group of Prof. G. Rempe at the Max-Planck-Institut für Quantenoptik in Garching, Germany where he worked in implementation of quantum networks utilizing single-atoms trapped in high-finesse optical cavities. Starting in 2013 he has been an Professor and the Group leader of the Quantum Information Technology group at Stony Brook University, where he has developed scalable room temperature quantum memories and entanglement sources, aiming to construct the first working prototype of a quantum repeater network. Since Jan. 2019, Prof. Figueroa is also joint appointment with the Instrumentation Division and the Computer Science Initiative at Brookhaven National Laboratories. The collaboration between Stony Brook and BNL is developing the New York State Quantum Internet Testbed (NYSQIT) , a first prototype of a quantum network distributing photonic entanglement over long distances. Since Sept. 2023 Prof. Figueroa is the Director of the Stony Brook Center for Distributed Quantum Processing and a Presidential Innovation Endowed Professor.



Hope Knight

President, CEO, and Commissioner, Empire State Development

Hope Knight is the President, CEO and Commissioner of Empire State Development, New York State's economic development agency. She was nominated to the position by Governor Kathy Hochul in October 2021, and confirmed by the New York State Senate in May 2022.

At ESD, Commissioner Knight is dedicated to policies that advance sustainable and inclusive economic growth. She has been instrumental in the creation of the state's Office of Strategic Workforce Development, which will focus on improving New York's workforce development programs and practices to better align with the needs and priorities of today's employers. Knight has also focused efforts on supporting New York State's small businesses.



Elizabeth Lusskin

Executive VP, Small Business and Technology Development, Empire State Development

Elizabeth Lusskin is Executive Vice President, Small Business and Technology Development at Empire State Development, leading a division with 50+ staff and programs exceeding $1B across five areas, focused on small business and innovation: Capital Access, Entrepreneur Development, NYSTAR (technology and research commercialization), Life Science and Venture. Prior positions include President of LIC Partnership and ED of LIC Business Improvement District, Chief of Staff/VP of Strategic Initiatives at then Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Deputy Commissioner of NYC SBS, and Legislative Counsel, NYS Office of Federal Affairs. She is a graduate of Yale University and NYU School of Law.



Anna W. Topol, Ph.D.

CEO, Qlithic Technologies, Inc.

Anna W. Topol is a CEO of Qlithic Technologies Inc., a quantum computing startup. She is a former CTO at IBM Research. During her 25 years at IBM, she was named IBM Distinguished Engineer and Master Inventor. Dr. Topol held executive roles in both technical and business positions, including strategic partnerships and industry initiatives, intellectual property management, and R&D of cutting-edge technology. She led fundamental research in DRAM and 3D CMOS technology. She authored over 100 Publications, 3 Book Chapters, and 97 Patents. Her Ph.D. was in optoelectronics. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of an Executive Committee for the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). She servs as an advisor to quantum technology startups. She is a technical vitality coach and mentor, including Quantum Pioneers Legacy Initiative. She is a mother of 2 sons. She skydived despite her fear of heights.



Ben Verschueren

Executive Director, NYSTAR, Empire State Development

Ben Verschueren is an innovative leader with expansive experience connecting technology to outcomes and effectively motivating and managing interdisciplinary teams. He is adept at managing portfolios of research and development programs across multiple industries, from program selection through conclusion. He is a trusted mentor and creative problem solver, able to work across organizational boundaries. Ben is passionate about enabling others, looking for ways to remove barriers and help empower innovators and his team.

Most recently, Ben was Director of Global Labs at Fluence, where he grew a global team and network of test facilities and labs responsible for finalizing next generation, grid-scale energy storage systems.

TURNING BREAKTHROUGHS INTO BUSINESS: TECH TO MARKET WITH THE SUNY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

At the SUNY Research Foundation, we don't just support innovation - We Help Launch It.

Our Tech-to-Market programs accelerate the journey from lab discovery to real-world impact. Whether you're a SUNY faculty innovator, entrepreneur, or industry partner, we offer the tools, funding, and expertise to bring SUNY-developed technologies to market.

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Breakout Sessions

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

DAY ONE

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM • Lower Level

Story Alchemy: Building Innovation Through Visual Storytelling and Accessible Technology

ROOM 101D

Story Alchemy with Cooley Comics uses accessible AI tools and visual storytelling to turn ideas into compelling stories and concepts. Participants will explore how generative AI can break down creative barriers, amplify diverse perspectives, and provide new ways to ideate, collaborate, and innovate—no technical or design experience required.

NY State's Place in the New Space Economy

ROOM 106A

New York helped shape the space age—from hosting the world's first space-based radio communication to supporting the development and tracking of the Space Shuttle. Today, as commercial space activity accelerates and new markets emerge, New York is poised to play an important new role. Government leaders, academic innovators, and industry experts explore the state's current capabilities, competitive advantages, and opportunities for growth—and what it will take for New York to lead in the New Space Economy.

Digital Twins in Healthcare: Building Virtual Patients to Accelerate Medical Research and Personalized Medicine

ROOM 101B

Explore how digital twins—virtual models of patients, organs, and biological systems—are transforming healthcare and medical research. Featuring expertise and innovation from across New York State, this session will highlight how digital twin technologies can accelerate discovery, improve treatment planning, and advance more personalized, data-driven approaches to patient care.

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM • Lower Level

Show Me the Money: Help Us Fund You

ROOM 101B

Discover what Empire State Development looks for when deploying capital and how you can leverage our technical assistance networks and other programs to bridge the gap, meet requirements, and secure funding.

NY MEP: Powering the Future of New York Manufacturing

ROOM 106A

Discover how the NY MEP network is helping manufacturers across New York innovate, grow, and compete. From advanced technologies and AI to workforce, supply chains, and operational excellence, learn how NY MEP is connecting manufacturers with the expertise and resources they need to build what's next.

The Flexibility of Glass: Emerging Applications for Glass-Based Microelectronics

ROOM 101D

Glass is an enabling material across a growing range of advanced microelectronics applications—from AI and advanced packaging to RF, defense systems, photonics, and co-packaged optics. This panel will bring together technology developers and end users to explore the evolving performance requirements creating new opportunities for glass-based substrates and packaging platforms. Panelists will discuss where glass offers unique advantages, what applications are creating the strongest market pull, and what technical and manufacturing challenges must be solved to move these technologies from promising demonstrations toward scalable commercial production.

Learn More About our Summit Expert Speakers

View our full list of speakers and their bios by scanning the QR code or visiting **nysinnovationsummit.com/speakers**



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

DAY TWO

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Lower Level

So You Built a Prototype. Now What? The Essential Questions, Decisions, and Resources That Keep Startups Moving Forward

ROOM 101D

Turning a concept or prototype into a successful product takes more than good technology—it requires making the right decisions at the right time. Hardware startups often reach a point where they get stuck and aren't sure what to do next, so attendees will learn how to prioritize what matters most, avoid common and costly mistakes, and identify resources that can help them move more confidently toward launch. This session will highlight the essential questions and decisions involved in product development, customer validation, intellectual property, go-to-market strategy, and manufacturing. The goal is simple: give startups practical guidance they can use to reignite their progress and keep moving forward.

Navigating New York's Innovation Ecosystem

ROOM 106A

Learn about how programs in New York State work together to advance energy innovation. Hear from startup companies, program administrators, and state agencies about success stories and areas for future collaboration.

Strengthening America's Critical Materials & Rare Earth Elements Supply Chain Through Recovery & Recycling

ROOM 101B

Critical materials and rare earth elements are essential to advanced manufacturing, clean energy, defense, and emerging technologies. This panel will explore how innovative recovery and recycling technologies can strengthen domestic supply chains, reduce reliance on foreign sources, and create new opportunities for U.S. manufacturing.



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We don't just fund innovation. We unlock it.

NYSERDA helps the most promising cleantech developers **grow**, **deploy**, and **lead**.

Our Innovation & Research Program offers **deep energy** and **market expertise, guidance, pilot opportunities** and **statewide programs** to help get energy innovators to market faster and more effectively.

We support energy innovators, from early-stage through commercialization, with **funding opportunities** and **partner programs.**

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nyserda.ny.gov/innovation

THINGS TO CHECK OUT AT THIS YEAR'S SUMMIT

Day 1 Only • North Hall

SUNY RF Headshot Booth

Get a professional headshot for free, courtesy of our Headshot Sponsor, SUNY RF.

Day 1 • Reception • North Hall

Buffalo String Works

Buffalo String Works is a youth-centered non-profit organization that provides high-quality string instrument education to refugee, immigrant, and historically marginalized youth in Buffalo, NY. Inspired by the El Sistema framework, the program uses intensive music instruction as a powerful tool for social transformation, youth leadership, and community building. Through low-barrier lessons and public performances, they empower the next generation of musicians and leaders.

Day 1 & Day 2 • North Hall

CMMC and Cybersecurity Office Hours

BOOTH 52 & 53

Have questions about CMMC compliance, cybersecurity, or what risks AI is creating for your organization? Stop by and get answers from experts who live in this space every day.

Open hours are during Breakfast and Lunch on both conference days or appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis on a sign up sheet at the OrbitalFire booths 52 & 53.

Investment Opportunity

LaunchNY Investor Connect

Launch NY Investor Connect is a service that connects startups raising equity capital with prospective investors. This is a valuable opportunity for startup founders to connect with investors who are interested in hearing about startup investment opportunities. Based on information you share about your company and current or near-term raise, Launch NY will make relevant investor introductions for you to follow-up with emails and scheduled meetings coordinated directly with the investor.

Scan the QR code and fill out the form to participate.

Day 1 & Day 2 • North Hall

Education Immersion with the Expertise Project

PART OF THE SUMMIT DOOR PRIZE PASSPORT

BOOTH 17

Visit the Expertise Project at booth number 17 in the Exhibit Hall to experience a mobile-virtual-immersive module that puts you in a simulated environment.

Day 1 & Day 2 • North Hall

Making Connections Map

PART OF THE SUMMIT DOOR PRIZE PASSPORT

Visit the Making Connections Map and plot a connection you've made through the NYSTAR network or at the Summit.

Day 1 & Day 2 • North Hall

Bubblegum Bubble Challenge

PART OF THE SUMMIT DOOR PRIZE PASSPORT

Blow your biggest bubble for social media with our Bubblegum Bubble Challenge and share using #SummitBubbleChallenge and tag us @FuzeHub.

Day 1 & Day 2 • North Hall

The Founders' Hub

PART OF THE SUMMIT DOOR PRIZE PASSPORT

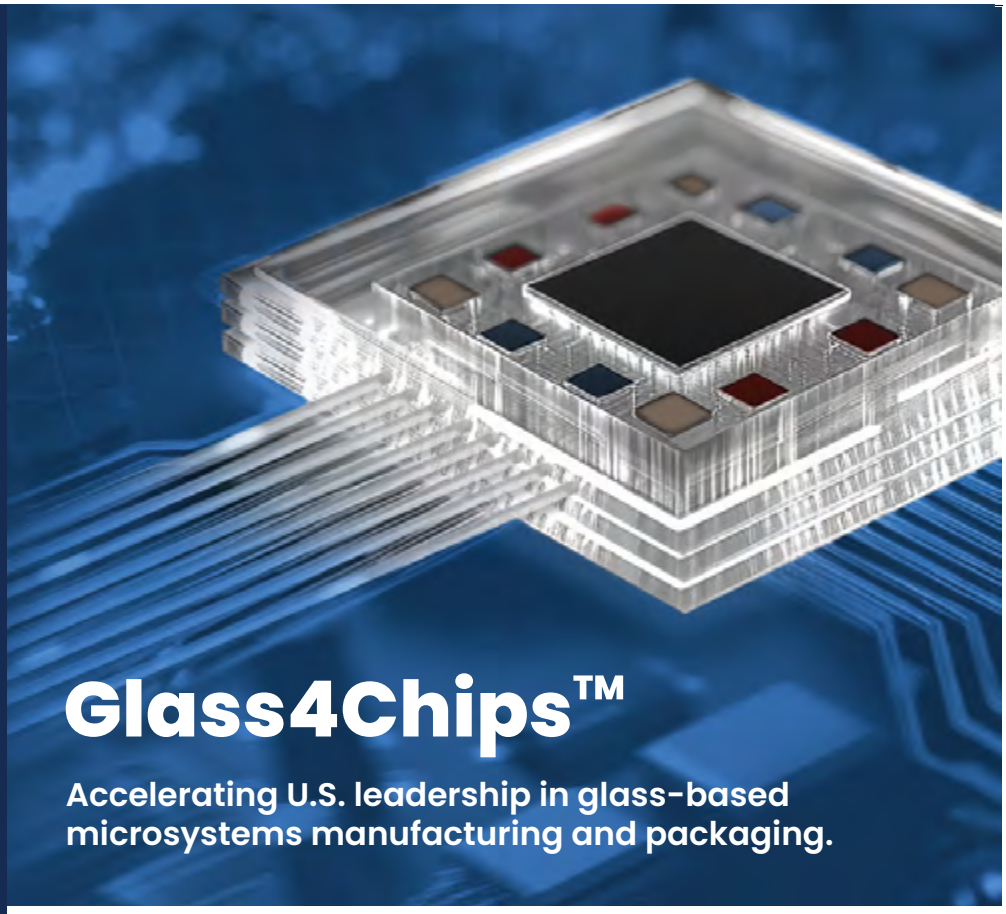
New this year at the Summit, the Founders' Hub is a dedicated space in the exhibit hall designed to support and connect early-stage founders. Serving as a central gathering point throughout the event, the Hub provides founders with opportunities to network, meet with investors and industry leaders, exchange ideas, and build relationships that can help advance their businesses.

2026 Founders' Hub Companies:

- AgileRadioCom LLC
- AppFactory Inc
- Arbol
- Bear Club Games Inc.
- Block Harbor
- Bootstrap Buffalo LLC
- BRCĒ
- CARGILITY Inc
- Dentite
- DroneGurus
- Ecosphere Organics
- Era73 Technologies
- GoodBread
- Immunotolerx
- Kickfurther
- Michigan Founders Fund
- Motmot
- Nutshell Labs, Inc.
- Paidly Inc.
- Pixesci
- Round Here Inc
- sayhii
- SynaFox
- TETmedical, Inc.
- ThermoVerse
- TunaBotics
- Twipes
- Vanly
- Vicora, Inc.

A CLEAR ADVANTAGE

ENGAGE. COLLABORATE. ACCELERATE.



Glass4Chips™

Accelerating U.S. leadership in glass-based microsystems manufacturing and packaging.

Bridging the gap between the technical advantages of glass-based solutions and urgent geopolitical economic priorities of the U.S. government.

KEY EFFORTS

- Scale supply chain capabilities in multiple U.S. regions
- Improve performance and yield for diverse applications and form factors
- Set industry standards and prioritize technology road maps
- Form partnerships and investment strategies for long term economic growth

Glass4Chips is actively pursuing public and private funding to expand the U.S. industrial base.

Glass4Chips is open to partnering with like-minded allied nations to bring advanced glass substrate R&D, fabrication, assembly and test to New York State.

GET INVOLVED

Reach out via email to Bill Taylor, Director of Semiconductor Operations at **bill@fuzehub.com**.

WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

HOSTED BY NY VENTURES

Day 1 • 12:45 PM - 1:30 PM • Lower Level

The Imperfect Pitch: Storytelling at Pre-Seed

Space is Limited - Registration Required

ROOM 105

At pre-seed, nothing is ever perfect. You'll never have enough traction, enough team, or enough proof. That's not a problem to fix before you raise money. It's part of the journey. Typically, the founders who raise well aren't the ones with the cleanest metrics. They're the ones who know how to tell the story: what to lead with, what to leave out, and how to turn an honest weakness into a credible plan.

This interactive workshop is for pre-seed and early-stage founders who are building their pitch or getting ready to raise. You'll work live on the two hardest parts of any early pitch: making your real strengths impossible to miss and repositioning your real weaknesses so they read as managed risk instead of red flags. Expect to pitch out loud, get direct feedback, and leave with language you can use in your next investor conversation, not just slides.

- **Justin Kang**, Co-Founder and Partner, Visible Hands

Visible Hands is a VC fund with a 14-week, virtual-first fellowship program that supports overlooked talent in building technology startups.

Investing in the Future

ROOM 104

The innovation economy equates "investing" with Venture Capital. In reality, there is a continuum of Risk Capital investment vehicles.

Founders have likely observed, the rules of risk Capital are changing and venture capital is harder to find.

This panel explores why those changes are happening, and what an effective blend of capital looks like in this new paradigm.

- **Melissa Withers**, Founder and Managing Partner, RevUp Capital
- **Ian Daigle**, Investment Partner, Eastward Capital

Moderated by **Zack Pecenak, Ph.D.**, Director, Innovation, Venture Capital Fund, NY Ventures

The Metrics That Matter: How Investors Evaluate Seed & Series A Startups

Space is Limited - Registration Required

ROOM 102

Raising capital at the Seed and Series A stage requires more than a compelling vision. Investors increasingly look for evidence that a startup has identified the right growth engine and can demonstrate repeatable, efficient execution. Yet, many founders focus on vanity metrics rather than the handful of indicators that truly drive investment decisions.

In this workshop, founders will learn how investors evaluate early-stage companies through the lens of traction, growth, efficiency, and market potential. You'll learn about the key metrics that matter most at Seed and Series A, including revenue growth, customer acquisition, retention, engagement, burn efficiency, and capital efficiency, while exploring how expectations evolve between funding stages.

Founders will gain practical insights into how investors interpret these metrics, common mistakes made when presenting them, and how to build a data story that strengthens fundraising conversations. Whether you're preparing for your next round or looking to better understand investor decision-making, this session will help you focus on the numbers that matter most and confidently communicate your startup's progress.

- **Ashley Ryder**, Partner, VamosVentures

VamosVentures is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in diverse and underrepresented teams.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | New York Ventures

A Division of Empire State Development

Day 1 • 1:45 PM - 2:30 PM • Lower Level

Concept to Contract: How to Capture First Money & First Pilots in DeepTech

ROOM 103

DeepTech startups face long R&D cycles, high capital intensity, and customer markets that demand proven technology before buying. Moving from prototype to commercial contract isn't just about the science, it's about early risk mitigation and smart customer acquisition. This panel brings together investors and ecosystem builders from across DeepTech to share strategies for landing your first pilots, securing early venture dollars, and building a commercial pipeline before you have a finished product.

- **Pete Mathias**, Founder & Investor, Reveille VC
- **Jon Schulhof**, Managing Partner, Newlab Fund
- **Andy Gollach**, Partner, SOSV HAX

Moderated by **Josh Nelson**, Senior Director, Pre-Seed & Seed Fund, NY Ventures

Ten Dysfunctions of a Startup

ROOM 104

Hear from an entrepreneur who has built multi-billion-dollar companies from startup to scale—and now invests from the other side of the table. Hard-earned lessons for founders building with focus, discipline, and conviction. This session touches on ten common early-stage failure modes—chasing volume before fit, letting customers write the roadmap, overhiring, competitor distraction, fuzzy pricing, and roadmap work with no commercial payoff—and how to replace them with the focus and discipline that make companies stronger and more investable.

- **Dan Goldsmith**, Co-Founder & Partner, Proofpoint Capital

Day 2 • 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM • South Hall

VCs Shaping Reindustrialization

HOSTED BY NY VENTURES

Introduction by **Jennifer Tegan**, Managing Director, NY Ventures

- **Bryanna Samuels**, Senior Director, NY Ventures
- **Zak Schwarzman**, General Partner, MetaProp
- **Jeanne Casey**, Head of Nuveen Real Assets Ventures
- **Lisa Morales-Hellebo**, Founder & Managing General Partner, REFASHIOND Ventures

FUND ADMINISTRATION FOR EMERGING MANAGERS

Impact has always had value.

Now, you can own it.

Launch your fund on Homefield, with impact reporting built in from day one.

homefield.io

COMPETITION FINALISTS

Day 1 • 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM • Ballroom

SUPERClean Glass

Solar is the world's fastest-growing energy source, and its biggest farms are in sunny deserts. But deserts have a costly problem: dust. It can cut output by up to 25 percent, and cleaning means trucking millions of gallons of potable water into the desert.

SUPERClean Glass, a Long Island startup, makes solar panels that clean themselves. Invisible electrodes in the glass, powered by the panel itself, create an electric field that lifts dust and sweeps it away in seconds, without water or moving parts. Panels can keep producing up to 98% of the power they made before the dust settled.

- **Michael Backman**, Commercialization Lead
- **James St. John**, Senior Research Scientist

Resolvia Biosciences

Resolvia Biosciences is pioneering new treatments for chronic inflammatory diseases. Millions of Americans with autoimmune diseases rely on medications that suppress the immune system but don't resolve the underlying inflammation. Patients are left vulnerable to infection, experience persistent symptoms, and have serious side effects.

The problem is: suppressing inflammation isn't the same as "resolving" it. Resolvia's lead formulation pairs immune control with a therapy that actively resolves inflammation, resulting in true tissue repair and healing. By targeting both the driver of inflammation and the body's ability to heal, Resolvia aims to move beyond symptom management and achieve lasting disease remission.

- **Kate C. MacNamara**, Co-Founder
- **Rachel Grazda**, Co-Founder

Axenica Bioscience

Viruses like flu and COVID evolve quickly to spread disease, and diagnostic tests cannot stay reliable unless they're evaluated against the viruses circulating today. Scientists do not have access to a continuous supply of current viruses to confirm whether diagnostics can detect the strains spreading now.

When tests fall behind, infections spread silently through communities - a parent walking into work contagious, a teacher exposing students, a child visiting a vulnerable grandparent. Axenica Bioscience manufactures advanced viral materials scientists need to evaluate diagnostics with real-world accuracy. When diagnostics stay current, families stay safer, clinicians act faster, and communities stay protected.

- **Kelly A. Cycon, Ph.D.**, Co-Founder, President, & CSO
- **Naveen Bangia**, CEO

Day 1 • 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM • Ballroom

Eggstraordinary

Busy mornings often force a choice between convenience and nutrition, pushing many people toward sugary cereals or skipping breakfast altogether. Eggstraordinary LLC is changing that with Eggiyo, an egg-based breakfast cereal designed to deliver the nutrition of a whole egg — without having to crack one. Eggiyo is gluten-free and dairy-free, delivering complete protein and fiber in a familiar breakfast format.

The product has already shown its potential, winning the 2025 Eggcelerator competition. Rather than empty carbs, Eggiyo is poised to introduce a new breakfast category, where busy families can trust what's in the bowl.

- **Waritsara "Peach" Khongkomolsakul**, Co-Founder
- **Sabrina K Choi**, Co-Founder
- **Yihong Deng**, Co-Founder

CarbonCLAIR

Construction and infrastructure work creates dust, fumes, and odors that can affect workers, nearby communities, and project schedules. CarbonCLAIR is building mobile, electric air-treatment systems for contractors, municipalities, and facility operators. Its equipment captures polluted air near the source and removes dust and selected fumes, including in tight workspaces.

During a pilot with New York City's Department of Environmental Protection, the system reduced airborne dust by 70% and removed 95% of vapors and odors passing through it. CarbonCLAIR is developing a durable metal platform to make this low-energy approach easier to deploy repeatedly across New York.

- **Fares Al-lahabi**, Co-Founder & CEO

Lucent EMS Solutions

Emergency medical responders may spend an hour transcribing patient care reports after a single 911 call, keeping ambulances off the road and draining crews after long shifts. An average agency pays thousands of dollars in overtime weekly to crew members for hundreds of hours of paperwork.

Lucent EMS Solutions solves this with a hands-free sidekick that captures clinical data in real time, immediately logs treatments, and drafts complete, highly accurate reports for crew review. By cutting documentation time to under 10 minutes per run, Lucent eliminates transcription errors, saves substantial administrative costs, and gets ambulances back in service faster.

- **Joshua Ackerman**, Co-Founder
- **Yoav Reshef**, Co-Founder

Day 2 • 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Ballroom

CaroRhythm

One in four stroke survivors will have another stroke. That next stroke is often more severe. Survivors are most vulnerable in the first month after discharge, and have only a single virtual follow-up during that time.

CaroRhythm makes continuous, at-home stroke risk monitoring possible through a wearable medical device, CaroSense. This device is designed to track blood flow and notify survivors, care partners, and clinicians to stroke onset. This allows survivors to reach the hospital in time for life-saving treatment. Around 1.9 million neurons die every minute due to stroke. CaroRhythm makes each minute count.

- **Nisha Maheshwari**, Co-Founder & CEO

PSSP Technologies (OVAI)

Perimenopause can last ten years, during which time a woman may lose words mid-sentence, no longer recognize her own moods, and wake drenched every night, her heart pounding. She asks for a blood test, certain it will explain what she feels. But her hormones swing widely and a single blood draw catches one random moment. It reads normal, so she is dismissed.

Over 1 billion women worldwide live this story. PSSP Technologies is building OVAI, a skin patch designed to continuously read hormones from sweat, so women and their doctors can finally find what works and get her life back.

- **Polona Šafarič Tepeš, Ph.D.**, Co-Founder & CEO
- **Seth Plancher, MD**, Co-Founder & CMO

ProViZiGen

ProViZiGen is developing HydroGEN™, a first-in-class injectable biologic designed to prevent and reverse post-traumatic osteoarthritis, a debilitating disease that can begin after a joint injury at any age.

HydroGEN combines a specialized injectable gel with a regenerative protein to deliver sustained treatment directly within the joint. The technology is being developed for athletes, active individuals, military personnel, and others at risk of long-term joint degeneration following injury. In preclinical studies, HydroGEN reversed osteoarthritis-related damage after one shot in just 8 weeks and has the potential to preserve mobility, improve quality of life, and prevent disability for millions worldwide.

- **Jui Chaugule, Ph.D.**, Founder

Competition Judges

- **Brad Banikowski**, Investment Manager, CenterState CEO
- **Ed Bizari**, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, LaunchNY
- **Richard E. Honen**, Partner, Phillips Lytle LLP
- **Olga Petrova, Ph.D.**, Director, Innovation Initiatives, University at Buffalo

Meet the Faces Behind the Finalists

See the innovators behind this year's companies at **nysinnovationsummit.com/commercialization-competition** or scan the QR code.



2025 Competition Awardees

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Division of Science, Technology & Innovation

CORNELL UNIVERSITY FOUNDED A.D. 1865

Center for LIFE SCIENCE VENTURES

NYSTAR designated Center for LIFE SCIENCE ENTERPRISE

Institute of Biotechnology

Cornell Research & Innovation

CORNELL'S STARTUP INCUBATOR FOCUSED ON INNOVATION IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

CLIENTS HAVE RAISED >$600 MILLION IN EQUITY

3 EXITS (1 IPO & 2 ACQUISITIONS)

Ying Yang
Director
ying.yang@cornell.edu

CAT GRANTS OF UP TO $75,000 WITH A 1:1 COMPANY MATCH

FUNDING COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN NYS LIFE SCIENCE COMPANIES & CORNELL PIs TO COMMERCIALIZE PROMISING TECHNOLOGIES

Kurt Deriziotis
CAT Business Outreach Director
knd27@cornell.edu

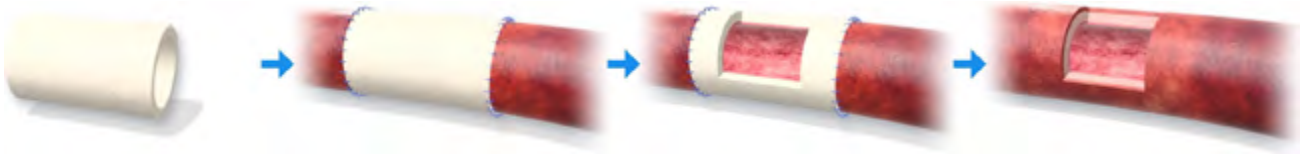
Research & Innovation

SUPPORTED BY CORNELL RESEARCH & INNOVATION, THE INSTITUTE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND NYSTAR

ANOVA BIOMEDICAL

A dialysis access graft the body rebuilds as its own.

NovaGraft is an off-the-shelf arteriovenous graft made from PIAS, Anova's patent-pending elastomer developed at Cornell University - soft, elastic and fully resorbable, implanted with standard vascular access technique.



NovaGraft
Off-the-shelf, fully synthetic

Implanted
Standard AVG technique, artery to vein

Endothelial lining
Host endothelium lines the lumen (1–3 mo)

Integrated
Host tissue covers and fills the graft wall

~80%
of US patients start dialysis on an infection-prone catheter

23%
of ePTFE grafts stay patent one year without intervention

$8B
added to annual Medicare spending by access complications

Anthony D'Amato, PhD · Co-founder & CEO · Anthony.Damato@AnovaBiomedical.com

AnovaBiomedical.com

Investigational device. Not cleared by the FDA. Preclinical results are from Anova studies in rat and sheep carotid models.


University at Buffalo
Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships
Research, Innovation and Economic Development
Where innovation becomes impact ›
UB's Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships brings together research, industry expertise and funding to move promising technologies from discovery to market.
With NYSTAR support, BEP helps startups and established companies advance innovation in AI, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and beyond.
Driving R&D, job creation and economic growth across New York State.
Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CBLS)
Center for Advanced Technology in Big Data and Health Sciences (CAT)
Center of Excellence in Materials Informatics (CMI)
Western New York Incubator Network (WIN)
buffalo.edu/impact

