

PRESS RELEASE
DATE: May 18, 2022



CHICOSTART ANNOUNCES THE NEXT IHUB2 PARTNERSHIP WITH PORT LABS

May 18, 2022 - Chico, CA: [Chicostart](https://chicostart.com) is excited to announce the next iHUB2 partnership with [Port Labs](https://portlabs.com), located in Oakland, Ca. They provide key resources for startups working to develop new products, a crucial missing piece to the North State entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Port Labs specializes in support for companies working in physical product development, including consumer and industrial goods, and food tech, with expertise in acceleration, design and prototyping.

"Chicostart's North State iHub2 is thrilled to announce Port Labs as another iHub2 partner for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the North State. Their offering is one of the key pieces missing for the North State that now fall into place with this partnership. Port Labs provides rapid-prototyping for MVP and commercialization - helping individuals and businesses accelerate their products and get to market smarter and quicker. This partnership, along with AgStart in Woodland and W.E.T. Center in Fresno, help our North State iHub2 provide different areas of prototyping and commercialization expertise." - **stated Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director, Chicostart.**

Sal Bednarz, Managing Partner, Port Labs says, "Port Labs is committed to connecting across the Northern California region for the benefit of our innovation economy. The companies we work with are part of a complex network of vendors and partnerships, and rely on the global supply chain. Working with great partners like Chicostart ensures we're plugged into opportunities and gaps that we can help meet. The shared goal is simple: more successful growth companies."

Chicostart and growTECH members, entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses in the Nor Cal region may connect to Port Labs directly through a referral by Chicostart and can benefit from its physical facilities, and its sponsored support programs.

In April, Chicostart was 1 of 10 designees awarded the statewide iHUB2 grant from CalOSBA. Chicostart's iHUB2 designation covers over 20+ counties in Northern California, focusing on building the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem for equitable access to entrepreneurial resources with inclusive ecosystem expansion into our rural and diverse communities. This includes expanding Chicostart's growTECH and entrepreneurial initiative throughout the region.

For media inquiries or to learn more about how to connect to Port Labs through Chicostart, contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart at eva@chicostart.com.

About Chicostart: Chicostart supports and enriches Northern California's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by providing small business, entrepreneurs and startups the resources they need to succeed. Our platform includes shared office amenities, mentoring, workshops, internships, tech talks, student to business projects, entrepreneurial events, satellite office programs, and anything else that helps our core mission of helping startups succeed. As a GO-BIZ iHub for the Far North, the Chicostart ecosystem includes but is not limited to investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors. ###