



PRESS RELEASE

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Chicostart Brings Together the North State for a Successful growTECH FEST (GTF) 2022

Chico, CA: Wednesday, October 5th [growTECH FEST 2022](#) presented by [Chicostart](#) brought over 200 North State attendees to the Big Room at **Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.** **growTECH FEST** is the ONLY entrepreneurial tech conference north of Sacramento bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, startups, innovators, community leaders and students to engage in 2 days of innovation, inspiration, education and networking.

The event kicked off with National Keynote Speaker & Futurist/Technology Strategist, Crystal Washington + GTF **ICON** Panel that consisted of local business leaders who have "paved the entrepreneurial way for others". The panel included: Andy Keller, **Chico Bag**, Alex Marshall, **Alex Marshall Studios**, Farshad Azad, **Azad Martial Arts Center**, Jeni Carriere-LaDuke, **Carriere Farms**, Michael Coogan, **Lone Fir Creative/MC2** and Ben Sampson, **WeHero**.

Chico State students presented a 1 minute business idea followed by investor Q&A. Lauren Keane, CSUC Senior with her business idea *Couture with a Cure* won the Student Lightning Round (sponsored by the Chico State College of Business).

Startup Stories closed the GTF show. Six startup businesses presented followed by Q&A from the investor table. Winning Startup Stories went to Stephanie Olson, [SheBuilds](#), a locally owned construction company with a tech-forward and holistic approach to home building.

Day 2 of growTECH FEST offered attendees a series of **workshops** that included Leadership & Culture, Winning Grants, Opportunities in CleanTECH and Investment Funding + Forecast. These packed sessions took place at **Stoble** Workplace in Downtown, Chico.

"Chicostart was thrilled to host our 3rd annual entrepreneurial conference, This is the only conference of its type north of Sacramento. GrowTECH FEST is for innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, techies, educators, local government and regional entities that care about entrepreneurs and their economic impact. Attendees were able to learn from startup experts, hear from regional start ups, get inspired and network. GrowTECH FEST is THE opportunity to celebrate and elevate the entrepreneurial spirit in our region." states Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart's North State iHub2 and facilitates GrowTECH initiatives.

Thanks to the **Chico State College of Business** and **North Far North Consortium**, students were able to attend for free.

growTECH FEST 2022 photos and video will be added to growtechfest.io. Stay tuned for growTECH FEST 2023!

For media inquiries growTECH FEST 2022 or to learn more about Chicostart & growTECH membership, please contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart at eva@chicostart.com.

growTECH FEST is POWERED BY [Build with Ferguson](#).

growTECH is an industry-led partnership between tech, entrepreneurs and industry leaders for the North State. These partners strategically focus on their community, culture and needs resulting in economic development, sustainability and growth for our region.

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 iHub2 for the Far North, the Chicostart ecosystem includes but is not limited to investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors.

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