



**EMBARGOED** *Until May 3, 2018 AT 9:00pm EST.*

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## **RAMP Business Accelerator Announces Selection of Second Cohort for RAMP-in-Residence at RBTC TechNite 2018**

**ROANOKE, Va** – Eight high-potential startups have been selected to participate in the second RAMP-in-Residence business acceleration cohort. The eight companies were chosen for their ability to expand and create jobs within the STEM-H field. The program launches May 15, 2018, in the renovated Gill Memorial Building in downtown Roanoke.

The incoming cohort is comprised of the following:

- **Beam Diagnostics, Inc.** - BEAM Diagnostics, Inc will focus on alcohol misuse and severity. BEAM is working to create BEACON, an app that will report a patient's reinforcer pathology score (RPscore) as a quantitative measure of alcohol misuse severity to a clinician in under 4 minutes saving time and promoting preventative screening for a burdensome disease.
- **BrockWorks, Inc.** - Brockworks is a virtual construction company working with builders across the country, creating detailed 3D models, and essentially building the house BEFORE they do. The company points out issues, mistakes, etc. as well as offering visualization services. Additionally they provide total construction estimates for the builder.
- **Chorda Pharma** - Chorda Pharma is a young, start-up pharmaceutical company, based in Roanoke. Chorda Pharma was founded by Rick Carliss, Ph.D., with a 25 year background in the research and development of patented pharmaceuticals. Dr. Carliss is the Operating Manager of Chorda Pharma, working with experts in the industry to develop the company and launch its flagship product, Paloxin.
- **Flewid Capital, Inc.** - Flewid Capital, Inc. believes that technological advancements can be utilized to create a more efficient and cost-effective method for financial exchange for the average person. They endeavor to provide people with a way to make their money accessible anywhere they go through a web-based financial transaction service, and to form the largest international community of individuals and businesses dedicated to a revolutionary method for commerce without borders that prioritizes efficiency, people's needs and connectivity across the globe.
- **healthScores, Ltd.** - healthScores will bring patient satisfaction and care quality data to the forefront of our partner's clinical operations, helping small clinical practices, free and charitable clinics, Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH), rural health clinics (RHC), community health clinics (CHC), community hospitals and dental clinics stay relevant and innovate in our current health system-dominated marketplace.
- **Leon BioVentures** - Leone BioVentures, LLC is working on a bio-pesticide that will have a world market. Josh James (COO), a Bioengineering graduate from Virginia Tech is



working to scale up the product that has shown to be effective in a bounty of successful greenhouse and field trials.

- **Outlit Inc.** - Outlit Inc. is a hyperlocal awareness and social networking service designed to make day-to-day community interactions easier.
- **Skyphos Technologies** - Skyphos technologies is dedicated to improving the translation of point-of-care diagnostics - moving these diagnostics out of the lab and into the hands of care specialist. They accomplish this by reducing both the costs and time to develop the next generation of Lab-On-a-Chip and microfluidic platforms. Specifically their value-add is in a proprietary and patent pending process for 3D printed microfluidic chips – they have the technology to eliminate 90% of the process timeline. Researchers can do it in their lab or use the Skyphos Technologies service to send them chips from designs.

The businesses in the cohort will benefit from structured mentorships provided by experienced executives, gain access to funding to help them move beyond early stage, and receive business education specifically targeted to scaling technology-based startups. They will be located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of 709 S. Jefferson Street during the program.

“RAMP is very excited to welcome our second cohort, and I am as enthusiastic as the companies are to get started. We are fortunate to have a diverse set of companies that I feel confident will find a great deal of synergy as they work together. It feels good to say, ‘the second cohort.’ It is rewarding to see the great regional support from individuals, businesses, and government entities to make this happen. There are many opportunities for community involvement with this cohort, and I hope that everyone will set aside the afternoon of *Wednesday, October 3rd* for **Demo Day** to meet our companies and learn more about why this is such an essential regional mission.” – Mary Miller, Director of RAMP

Support for RAMP comes from a broad public/private partnership that draws on leaders in higher education, government, and the region’s growing technology community.

RAMP founding partners include:

- The City of Roanoke, which won a \$600,000 state grant approved by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to renovate the Gill Building as an accelerator;
- Virginia Western Community College, which operates the facility and provides entrepreneurial classes and faculty support;
- The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council, which runs the accelerator program and has developed the accelerator’s mentorship and networking initiatives.

A Meet the Cohort event will be held on **Tuesday, May 15, 2018**, at 5:30pm at the Gill Memorial Building (709 S. Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24016).



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**ABOUT THE ROANOKE-BLACKSBURG TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (RBTC)**

The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council is a non-profit, member-driven association of businesses and organizations in the greater Roanoke-Blacksburg region, working together to promote the growth and success of the region's technology sector. Its membership includes more than 250 organizations. The RBTC is the leading resource for the region's growth and success. It exists to connect and unite the region's technology community, develop and educate thought-leaders, mentors, and the technology workforce, and improve access to talent. To learn more, please visit [www.rbtc.tech](http://www.rbtc.tech).

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