

Coaches, judges key features of Startup Weekend 9/2/13

Startup Weekend Tri-Cities is just around the corner.

Local entrepreneurs with big ideas and passion will gather Sept. 20-22 at Washington State University Tri-Cities to work with and learn from expert coaches, judges, and other entrepreneurs. The weekend is about taking the time and networking with the people who can help turn big ideas into a small reality, ready to grow into the future.

This is a "no-talk; all-action" event. Coaches with a variety of entrepreneurial experience will give one-on-one advice to teams that can be invaluable and a key factor for entrepreneurs in their

growth as a startup.



Diane Kahler

Economic Diversity.

emeritus of Gesa and co-founder of RV There Yet?; Kenn Petersen, founder of Addisolv LLC and a serial entrepreneur; Eric Hsu,

Coaches for the Tri-Cities' first Startup Weekend include Khristina Judy, owner of Real Centric Solutions LLC and former CEO of Randolph Construction; Christina Lethlean, CEO

lawyer and founder of Clear Focus Law; Derrick Stricker, entrepreneur and real estate broker; Jeffrey David Payne, CTO of Flex Rental Solutions and a novelist; Bernie Hansen, manager of Entrepreneurial Programs at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Robert Anderson, vice president of Benefit Strategies LLC; Gus Sako, founder of Octopus Garden; and Bruce Davis, director of the Small Business Development Center at Columbia Basin College.

With advice from the coaches, teams develop prototypes and present their startup ideas to a panel of expert judges who assess the

merits of each business opportunity and provide valuable feedback. Entrepreneurs at Startup Weekend Tri-Cities will have their concepts and designs evaluated by:

► J.D. Sitton, managing partner, Profera International and former CEO of Infinia. J.D. has a strong track record of turning ideas and innovations into attractive businesses.

► Paul Carlisle, founder of elevate and adjunct professor in entrepreneurial management at WSU Tri-Cities.

► Cory Hatchert, the chief operating officer at Cadwell Lab, having started his career as an engineer.

► Ron Boninger, vice president of sales at startup TiLite. Ron has a history on both sides of startups, as a founder and an investor.

At the end of the 54-hour marathon event, entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs will have spent one-on-one time with some of the movers and shakers in the community learning, creating and testing as they go to know if their big idea has what it takes to become a small reality.

For more information on Startup Weekend Tri-Cities, visit <http://tri-cities.startupweekend.org>. Registration closes Sept. 15.