



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Denver Startup Week Receives More Than 1,000 Session Proposals; Invites Community to Vote on Favorites to Help Finalize Program**

**DENVER (May 11, 2017)** – Denver Startup Week, the largest free entrepreneurial event of its kind in North America, announced today that 1,039 sessions – a new record – were proposed by the community to be presented as part of the sixth annual event that will take place September 25 – 29, 2017. Beginning today, the community is invited to vote on their favorite sessions to help finalize this year’s program of events. Voting will take place at [denverstartupweek.org](http://denverstartupweek.org) through May 28, 2017.

“When more than 1,000 people step up to share their insight and knowledge with others, it signals that Downtown Denver continues to be one of the best places in the country to start and grow a business,” said Erik Mitisek, executive director of Project X-ITE at the University of Denver and co-founder of Denver Startup Week.

The Denver Startup Week Organizing Committee, co-led by Mitisek, Tami Door, president and CEO of the Downtown Denver Partnership, and Ben Deda, vice president of channels and ecosystems at Vertafore, have charged themselves with evolving and growing the event in its sixth year, while ensuring it continues to enhance community and establish Denver as an entrepreneurial center on the local, regional and national stage.

“Our entrepreneurial community is the envy of cities across the country,” said Door. “We now have nearly 700 tech startups in Downtown, employing close to 5,000 people. Companies large and small are coming to Denver to positively impact our economy and help grow our entrepreneurial ecosystem.”

1,039 session proposals is up from 944 submitted in 2016. Sessions span each of Denver Startup Week’s programming tracks – Founder, Growth, Maker, Product, Designer and Developer – and the final program of events will be geared towards supporting all industries and all stages of business. This year’s schedule will also feature topic and industry clusters including social impact, IoT, healthtech, diversity and inclusion, cannabis and business basics.

“We continue to be impressed with not only the volume, but the quality of proposals submitted and now it’s up to the entire entrepreneurial community to help tell us what programs they find the most interesting and valuable,” said Deda.

In 2017, 13,334 people registered to attend 306 free programs and events throughout Downtown Denver, and organizers expect to exceed those numbers this year. Registration for the 2017 Denver Startup Week will be announced later this summer.

*\*Photos from Denver Startup Week are available upon request.*

### **About Denver Startup Week:**

Denver Startup Week, founded in 2012, is a celebration of everything entrepreneurial in Denver. The

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weeklong event is intended to unite the entrepreneurial community in Denver and celebrate the great companies, innovation and ideas happening in the city and the people and inspiration behind them. The core programming is centered on the entrepreneurial community with an emphasis in technology, design, social entrepreneurship, manufacturing and business. Events throughout the week are organized by both the Denver Startup Week Organizing Committee and the community at-large and include sessions, presentations, panels, workshops, happy hours, social events, job fairs and more. Denver Startup Week title sponsors include the Downtown Denver Partnership, Comcast NBCUniversal, Chase for Business, and WeWork. For more information, visit [www.DenverStartupWeek.org](http://www.DenverStartupWeek.org).

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