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Get Involved in January: A Monthly Guide to Opportunities in Charlotte

Opportunities

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credit: American Inno

Charlotte Inno, attendees network at American Inno's Startups to Watch event at WeWork on Nov. 5.

By Courtney Gabrielson

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When [you first learn about a tech ecosystem](#), especially one as vibrant as Charlotte's, it's only natural to become eager to dive into it headfirst.

Sometimes, however, finding the right opportunities to do just that can be difficult. Enter this roundup, which includes a list of deadlines for programs, mentorships and other chances to engage in Charlotte's startup world. While we aim to include deadlines specific to the month at hand, we'll occasionally include opportunities that creep slightly forward into the future. That way, you'll have adequate time to prepare an application or entrance form before it closes.

Are we missing something? [Let us know](#).

Coming Soon:

- **Capital Connects**

- **Who:** The event is hosted by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce.
- **What:** Greensboro-based Capital Connects, an annual showcase that boasts educational opportunities for both investors and startups (as well a pitch competition with a \$7,500 prize), is on the lookout for speakers to present at its March event. [Think you'd be a good fit?](#)
- **Where:** Greensboro
- **When:** Applications due Jan. 10; the pitch event occurs on March 4.

Ventureprise Launch NC IDEA Alumni






- **Ventureprise Launch NC IDEA Program**

- **Who:** UNCC and NC IDEA run the program, and "agile" early-stage startups with either completed market testing, minimal viable product or beta prototype are encouraged to apply.
- **What:** "Ventureprise Launch NC IDEA Program is designed to succeed at the most critical phase of commercializing an innovation– the opportunity assessment– through customer discovery."
- **Where:** UNCC
- **When:** Applications are due Jan. 12 for the spring cohort.

- **Incubatenergy Labs**

- **Who:** EPRI, the startup community and different electric utilities are a part of the collaborative demonstrations program that is Incubatenergy Labs. Early stage, electric utilities-focused startups are encouraged to apply.
- **What:** "Incubatenergy Labs is built for startups to engage utilities in paid demonstration projects. A utilities summit and collaborative demonstrations program in one, the program links startup companies leading the advancement of electrification, decarbonization and grid modernization with utilities from around the world that have the capacity and desire to demonstrate and scale those innovations. We structured the program to give you maximum exposure to utilities and ensure that the results of a successful demonstration with one utility turns into opportunities with many."
- **Where:** Pitch day is in Charlotte, but other events take place across the country.
- **When:** Applications due Jan. 17. The program begins in April and runs through the fall.

		
Ideas	Getting Started	Fundraising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Elon Musk on How to Build the Future › How to Evaluate Startup Ideas (SUS 2019) › How to Invent the Future I (SUS 2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › How to Create Luck › Doing Things That Don't Scale (SUS 2014) › The Biggest Mistakes First-Time Founders Make 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › How to Pitch Your Company › Raising Money Online Advice for Startups › How to Raise Money (SUS 2017)

Previous Startup School lessons. Courtesy photo.

- **Y Combinator's Startup School Online Course**

- **Who:** Led by [Y Combinator](#), this program is for those interested in founding a startup.
- **What:** "Learn how to start a startup with YC's free 8-week online course."
- **Where:** Online
- **When:** Program begins Jan. 20.

- **DIG SOUTH's Wild Pitch**

- **Who:** Led by DIG SOUTH. Innovative, scalable startups (from early to growth stage) are encouraged to apply.
- **What:** Participants "present their companies to an audience of top-shelf investors and DIG SOUTH Tech Summit speakers and attendees. There is no fee to apply and selected teams will receive two complimentary badges to the full Summit plus an invitation to the official DIG SOUTH Investor Bash on April 23.
- **Where:** Charleston Gaillard Center.
- **When:** Applications due Feb. 1; the event will occur on April 24 during the DIG SOUTH Tech Summit.



Dig South underway. Courtesy photo.

- **Kinetic Creative Boot Camp**

- **Who:** Led by Kinetic, the boot camp is for creative entrepreneurs looking to launch their ideas.
- **What:** "Kinetic Creative Boot Camp helps creatives determine their unique value proposition to get ready to launch their business. It's a 4-week intensive hands-on 'learning and doing' experience for creatives who are ready to turn their idea into a business."
- **Where:** Winston-Salem
- **When:** Applications due Feb. 2
- **NC IDEA MICRO and NC IDEA SEED Grants**
- **Who:** NC IDEA is a foundation "empowers entrepreneurs to reach their full potential by offering support when they need it most. Our strategic combination of competitive grants and programs helps entrepreneurs at all stages of business development." Grants are geared towards early technology companies with a North Carolina-based headquarters.
- **What:** "NC IDEA MICRO awards small, project-based grants to young companies looking to validate and advance their idea." Those awards are worth up to \$10,000. "NC IDEA SEED offers early stage companies the critical funding they need to scale faster." Those awards are worth up to \$50,000.
- **Where:** NC IDEA is headquartered in Durham.
- **When:** Grant applications open Feb. 3 (and close March 2).

Taking the Leap

- **Who:** The course is for entrepreneurs considering launching their own business.
- **What:** "In this FREE four week long cohort, participants will learn about different aspects of starting a business, including identifying potential markets, writing a business plan, running the finances of a business and marketing a business. You'll work with mentors and peers in fun breakout activities designed to help strengthen your business ideas and prepare you for success!"
- **Where:** Advent Coworking in Charlotte
- **When:** Deadline to apply is Jan. 30. The workshop itself runs on Tuesday evening from Feb. 4 through Feb. 25.

53 Ideas Business Pitch Competition

- **Who:** Led by the Small Business Center Network, the pitch competition is geared towards those with ideas that live in the 10 counties surrounding Charlotte.
- **What:** "Ready to compete for a chance to win \$10,000? Submit your video pitch now! It's simple process, but we've included [recording instructions](#) just in case. When you're ready, click the button below, complete the entry form and then immediately record and upload your 53 second video pitch. Be sure to state your first and last name along with your idea when recording."
- **Where:** N/A
- **When:** The deadline for submission is Feb. 20, with the final pitch competition set for May 21.

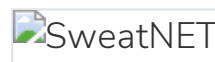
Rolling Deadlines:

- **The Hurt Hub@Davidson Mentoring Program:** "We exist to develop you into a stronger, more thoughtful, confident entrepreneur. Our mentors help guide your journey, asking you questions and sharing insights so you can make the best decision possible at every turn."
- **Gig-Hub Opportunities via Davidson College:** "An exchange where Davidson students and startups/companies can connect on short-term real-world projects for pay: you know, a gig!"
- **INCLT Mentoring:** "Guide coachable entrepreneurs to launch and build value in their ventures and community."
- **EO Accelerator** [For companies with over \$250,000 in revenue]: "Take your business to the next level of entrepreneurial excellence. The EO Accelerator program supports the achievements of those early-stage entrepreneurs who are driven to seek out the resources necessary to reach the \$1-million mark."
- **Silicon Road Ventures Accepting Applications:** "Silicon Road is now accepting applications from retail technology startups for its US cohort of presenting companies. The cohort will accept retail, commerce and CPG-focused startups who have at least \$1 million in revenue."

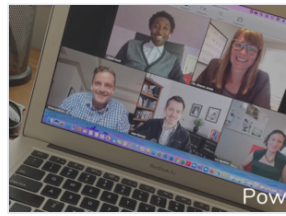
Keep Digging



Charlotte Inno's 2020 Gift Guide features eight unique, local products



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Pivots and Positioning: How 3 local entrepreneurs are working through



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