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# The Charlotte Tech Ecosystem at a Glance

## Ecosystem Overview

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The wisest explorers make sure to take a look at a map before their journey. Or at the very least, have one handy.

When diving into a startup or tech ecosystem, it can be helpful to have a map, too, and that's what we want this "Ecosystem at a Glance" document to serve as: a starting place, on-boarding tool and refresher for those new to and familiar with the city's innovation economy. At the very least, it will help you sound like you know your stuff [at your next meetup](#).

Below, you'll find basic insights into the startup and tech community in the Queen City — everything from its unicorns to universities, as well as the Twitter handles for those area thought leaders whose news

For comprehensive information on Charlotte coworking spaces, funding opportunities and more, check out our Guides section [here](#) for a full suite of additional resources.

### Unicorns

- **Red Ventures** (2000) | *"Red Ventures is a multi-billion-dollar portfolio of digital companies that specializes in bringing consumers and brands together."*
- **Tresata** (2011) | *"Tresata develops software platform for real-time customer intelligence management."*
- **AvidXChange**(2000) | *"AvidXchange provides accounts payable and on-demand invoice management solutions."*



Photo Credit: StartCharlotte

## Notable Companies

- **2ULaundry** (2015) | *"A new spin on laundry and dry cleaning, delivered to your door."*
- **AddShoppers** (2011) | *"We empower 200MM+ shoppers and 5,000+ brands to build direct relationships through self-sovereign identity controls and personalized messaging."*
- **Atom Power** (2014) | *"Atom Power built the world's first and only true solid-state circuit breaker. Using semiconductors to control the current digitally, this breakthrough unlocks a future where power is smartly controlled and exponentially safer."*
- **AccessOne** (2002) | *"Financing Programs for Every Patient. Exceptional Patient Experience. One Simple Solution."*
- **Bella Tunno** (2005) | *"Our mission is to create the best baby accessories and with the sale of every product, give one meal to one child. Bella Tunno partners with Feeding America to end hunger."*
- **BriteVerify — From Validity** (2009) | *"BriteVerify Email Verification ensures that an email address actually exists in real-time without ever sending a message."*
- **BrightDime** (2014) | *"BrightDime offers everything your company needs to succeed with financial wellness today."*
- **Boardroom Insiders** (2018?) | *"The ONLY business intelligence tool designed exclusively for C-Suite sales, marketing, and recruiting."*
- **ClubUp** (2016) | *"We are preserving and growing the tradition of caddying by building custom solutions for clubs across the country."*
- **ecomdash** (2013) | *"Ecomdash enables you to confidently grow your online business by simplifying multichannel inventory management, along with everything else that goes into ecommerce order fulfillment."*
- **Fullcube**(2014) | *"We believe your greatest new revenue lies in the hands of your existing customers."*
- **InfoSense**(2007) | *"Our products integrate customer needs with innovative technology to provide valuable & actionable insights."*
- **Insurance Agent**(2012) | *"We're building THE PLATFORM that connects agents, carriers and their mutual policyholder-clients."*
- **MapAnything** (2009) | *"Purpose-built to meet the most challenging field environments, MapAnything's location intelligence technology aligns field activities with business goals in one, unified platform."*

- **MEDICI**(2013) | *"Enabling fintech at scale."*
- **Passport** (2010) | *"With Passport's software platform, cities can seamlessly integrate mobility providers and keep pace with technological innovation."*
- **Payzer** (2014) | *"Payzer features a mobile app and online payment application to take payments in the field and enable credit for your customers with instant on the spot approvals."*
- **PetScreening.com** (2016) | *"We make it easy to manage your pet and assistance animal records."*
- **ProctorFree** (2012) | *"Automated, online proctoring."*
- **Quaero** (2014) | *"Marketers and Data-As-A-Product teams use our platform to source and activate information from across their enterprise, turning their unique customer knowledge into bottom line outcomes."*
- **RealRecruit** | *"RealRecruit is the country's leading and most comprehensive culture and risk management platform. We enhance your student-athlete experience and decrease risk."*
- **The Rothman Index/Perahealth** (2008) | *"The Rothman Index detects sepsis earlier, lowers cost per case, prevents unplanned ICU transfers, reduces 30-day readmissions, and optimizes palliative care consults."*
- **Saprex** (2009) | *"We focus on advancing materials exposed to extreme environments."*
- **SignUpGenius** (2008) | *"Coordinate events and people in minutes."*
- **SmartSky Networks** (2011) | *"Stay connected inflight with SmartSky 4G LTE."*
- **Stratifyd Inc.** (2015) | *"Our AI-powered platform analyzes, categorizes and visualizes omni-channel customer feedback in real time."*
- **T1V**(2008) | *"Visual collaboration solutions for meeting rooms and active learning environments."*
- **uBack** (2014) | *"Raise your company's Social Impact and Brand with Give360. Engage your employees year-round."*
- **URise Products** | *"StandUp Walker's stand-assist function helps users rise from a seated position without the need for additional assistance."*
- **Skipper** (2016) | *"Professional dog walkers you can trust."*



The Hurt Hub@Davidson (College). Photo Credit: Melissa Key, Charlotte Business Journal

## AREA HIGHER EDUCATION

*"... highly rated public schools, colleges and universities are just a few of the reasons Charlotte has one of the highest in-migration rates in the United States."* — Charlotte.gov

- **Catawba College**
- **Central Piedmont Community College**

- [Davidson College](#)
- [Gaston College](#)
- [Johnson & Wales University \(Charlotte\)](#)
- [Johnson C. Smith University](#)
- [Northeastern University — Charlotte Campus](#)
- [Pfeiffer University](#)
- [Queens University of Charlotte](#)
- [Rowan-Cabarrus Community College](#)
- [UNC Charlotte](#)
- [Wake Forest University School of Business — Charlotte Campus](#)
- [Winthrop University](#)



Photo Credit: StartCharlotte

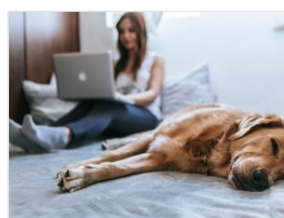
## Area Tech and Startup Thought Leaders

It's hard to make an all-encompassing list of those folks who are leading the charge within Charlotte's tech ecosystem. But we've made a start by assembling some below, including their Twitter handle and bio. They're folks whose perspective can widen yours. American journalist Margaret Fuller said it best: *"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it."*

- [Steve Amedio](#) | *"I am the President and COO of Technekes, LLC, a Charlotte based integrated marketing firm focused on serving Fortune 500 and emerging Life Sciences companies."*
- [Haley Bohon](#) | *"Founder & CEO at @skillpophq."*
- [Tariq Scott Bokhari](#) | *"Family man, lives Fintech, loves CLT, CLT City Councilman D6, Co-Founder of Carolina Fintech Hub."*
- [Erin Breden](#) | *"Writer/editor. Business owner. Podcaster @QueenCityPN. Free spirit with a wild heart. Landlocked mermaid. Chief Relations Officer @AdventCoworking."*
- [Greg Brown](#) | *"Finance guy with a passion for entrepreneurial companies. President of Cardinal Finance and Administrator of Charlotte Angel Fund."*
- [Todd Buelow](#) | *"Digital Strategist & Startup Specialist, Tech Entrepreneur, Speaker, Investor & Social Activist"*
- [Devin Collins](#) | *"Interim Executive Director, Ventureprise, UNC Charlotte"*
- [Terry Cox](#) | *"President & CEO, Business Innovation & Growth (BIG) Executive Director, TechWorks of Gaston County"*
- [Greg Crumpton](#) | *"HVAC, Mission Critical Infrastructure, LifeLongLearning, Data Centers & other unique areas of dabbling."*

- **Rob Cummings** | "MD at Falfurrias Capital and co-founder of DealCloud. Panthers/Terps hoops/Hokies football fan. Startups and Uptown Charlotte champion."
- **Jessie Dennen** | "Credit Karma U.K."
- **Sherrell Dorsey** | "Data journalist raised on MS DOS + 2Pac. Building data-driven reporting on the Black tech innovation economy over at [@\\_ThePlugDaily](#). Loans at [@columbiajourn](#) '18."
- **Eric Dudley** | "CEO & Founder of Overground | Entrepreneur"
- **Louis Foreman** | "Entrepreneur, product developer and innovation enthusiast. CEO of [@EdisonNation](#) and [@EP\\_Innovation](#)."
- **Daniel Friel** | North Carolina
- **Igor Gorlatov** | "Principal at Successful Negotiators Club ([@clubwin\\_win](#)) that helps creatives, entrepreneurs and agencies attain their true potential."
- **Chris Halligan** | "Charlotte. Payzer. UofA. The real cycle you're working on is a cycle called yourself."
- **Vic Howie** | "Founder of U.S. National Whitewater Center, PitchBreakfast and Adventure Travel Guides. Love whitewater kayaking, biking (road and mountain) golf and travel."
- **Caroline Hudson** | "Banking, finance, health care and technology reporter for CBJ. Email tips to [chudson@bizjournals.com](mailto:chudson@bizjournals.com). #UNC journalism alumna. Go Heels!"
- **Juan Garzón** | "Head of Ecosystem Development at American Inno. General Manager of Charlotte Inno. Executive Director of PitchBreakfast."
- **Julie Goff** | "General Manager, Jay Hurt Hub for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Davidson College."
- **Jillzey** | "Gather around for \*the\* International Sensation. She's traveled the globe spreading her message of salvation through sarcasm ..." - P.T. Barnum
- **Rajeev Kulkarni** | "Two decades of inventing & applying 3D Printing into life changing solutions."
- **Mac Lackey** | "Entrepreneur / Investor. Founder [@mountainkhakis](#), [@ISLfutbol](#), [@kyckHQ](#), etc. Multiple 8-fig exits. Several whiffs. I now help serious founders SCALE & EXIT."
- **Keith Luedeman** | "Executive Director of INCLT. Founder, Goodmortgage.com."
- **Erica Madden** | "Executive Director, LaunchLKN. Owner, Co-Founder at Bloom Strategic Communications LLC."
- **Mark McDowell** | "Investor, entrepreneur, engineer."
- **Garth Moulton** | "SVP Business Development [@pipL.com](#) Co-Founder Jigsaw and OtherScreen, sales guy, CLT investor, family man, Boston sports fan, prankster."
- **Abhishek (AJ) Ratani** | "Father and husband, world traveler, Former CTO [@RedVentures](#), feminist, entrepreneur and technologist. Avid lover of travel, dancing, sports and life!"
- **Dan Roselli** | "Co-Founder [@PackardPlace\\_](#) [@CLT\\_EA@QCFinTech](#) [@finsidersCLT@CarolinaFintech](#) Board [@CLTChamber@CharlotteWorks](#) [@UNCC\\_CCI@McCollSchool](#) ; [@AKPsi@MichiganStateU](#)."
- **Ross Saldarini** | "Dad, husband, entrepreneur, investor, soccer, Italian food, travel, art and politics enthusiast."
- **Meg Seitz** | "Founder & Chief Creative Officer at toth shop & toth + fay; [@bea4biz](#) cofounder; [@kenyoncollege](#) '05 & [@wakeforestbiz](#) MBA '13; ps20/v7; mostly pgh sports RTs."
- **Brandon Shelton** | "Mission Driven l [@USArmy](#) [@urichmond@dukefuqua](#) l Patriot l Dad l Veteran investor [@GoodUnitedio](#) [@ProctorFree@StabilitasV](#) [@StreetShares](#) [@VemoEd@myCrowdz](#)."
- **Laura Smailes** | "Assistant director, Ventureprise, University of North Carolina at Charlotte."
- **Meggie Williams** | Founder and CEO at Skipper.
- **Tyler Young** | "Managing Editor at The Plug Daily."

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COVID-19 Guide to Leading Employees Through the Crisis



COVID-19 Guide to Mental Health and Wellness



COVID-19 Guide to Mentorship and Support

COVID-19 Guide: Money and



### COVID-19 Guide: Money and Funding Resources

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