

For Immediate Release

The Idea Village Opens Applications for its 2016 Accelerator Programs

3 Intensive Business Accelerators for High-Growth Entrepreneurs Seeking to Scale their Startups

(New Orleans, LA) July 15, 2015 – Today, The Idea Village announces that applications for the 2016 Entrepreneur Season accelerators are now open. Founders looking to scale their ventures in New Orleans are invited to apply for the following programs via www.ideavillage.org.

1. **IDEAx:** A 12-week accelerator program for 5 local founders creating scalable businesses in New Orleans. The program will culminate in a Demo Day in December, where participants will pitch The Idea Village network of mentors, investors, and professionals. [Learn more about the program and the specific qualification criteria here.](#)
2. **DIGITAL MEDIAx:** A 12-week accelerator for 5 New Orleans-based founders with innovative digital information sharing concepts readily accessible on a mobile platform, hosted in partnership with **NOLA Media Group**. The program will culminate in a Demo Day in December, where the winner will receive \$1,000 in cash and free office space at NOLA Media Group's One Canal Place newsroom from January-March – as well as a networking trip to New York City sponsored by Advance Local. [Learn more about the program and the specific qualification criteria here.](#)
3. **ENERGYx:** A 12-week accelerator program for 5 Louisiana-based oil and gas startups, hosted in partnership with the **Southeast Louisiana Energy Initiative**. Select participants will present their businesses to a panel of industry leaders for a \$75,000 grant during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week 2016. [Learn more about the program and the specific qualification criteria here.](#)

Applications for **IDEAx** and **DIGITAL MEDIAx** will close at **11:59pm CT on Saturday, August 22nd**, and applications for **ENERGYx** will close at **11:59pm CT on Friday, September 4th**.

"The Idea Village's accelerators are the best in the country for those founders looking to grow their business in New Orleans," said Tim Williamson, Co-founder and CEO of The Idea Village. "We are looking for great individuals with big ideas to join the network of successful entrepreneurs who have participated in our programs since 2000."

Each program provides access to dedicated Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs) as well as The Idea Village's influential network of mentors and experts to ensure that participating entrepreneurs have the resources necessary to accelerate the growth of their ventures and develop the skills required to emerge as entrepreneurial leaders.

The Idea Village's accelerator programs are highly competitive in an effort to identify the most capable entrepreneurs. Of the 180 entrepreneurs that have gone through an accelerator, 83% are still in business and 91% are still located in New Orleans. Collectively, these entrepreneurs have raised over \$75 million in private capital, created over 1,300 jobs, and generate \$155 million in annual revenue.

Accelerator alumni include: *4D Supplements, Advanced Polymer Monitoring Technologies, Audiosocket, BeneFit, Better Day Health, Be Well Nutrition, Bioceptive, Bluebag, Cajun Fire Brewing Company, ChapterSpot, Cordina, CultureConnect, Dinner Lab, Ducky, education everytime, eTax Credit Exchange, Federated Sample, Gustofy, IMOTO Photo, iSeatz, KREWE du optic, gotointerview.com, Huka Entertainment, Jack & Jake's, Kickboard, LifeCity, Locally.com, Maritant, MobileQubes, mSchool, Munivestor, MyMix Nutrition, Naked Pizza, NOLA Brewing Company, NOLAcajun.com, NOLA Couture, NOvate Medical Technologies, NuMe Health, The Occasional Wife, The Remedy Room, Retail Goose, Spa Workshop, StaffInsight, Tutti Dynamics, Welcome to College, Your Nutrition Delivered, and zlien.*

"After working with The Idea Village, our company was unrecognizable to its former self," said Scott Wolfe, Founder of zlien. "They helped us lay out our goals and compose a tactical plan to achieve them. We're now a matured business with a clear understanding of our vision, mission, and values. I highly recommend The Idea Village to any entrepreneur who is looking to grow their business."

The Idea Village is hosting information sessions at their office (located at 515 Girod Street) on Friday, July 17th from 9am until 10am and August 6th from 9am until 10am to help individuals navigate the 2016 accelerator programs and application process.

ABOUT THE IDEA VILLAGE:

The Idea Village is an independent 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization based in New Orleans that provides direct service to high impact entrepreneurs, convenes the ecosystem through New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, and supports initiatives that strengthen our entrepreneurial infrastructure. The Idea Village received a Gold Excellence award from the International Economic Development Council for our Entrepreneur Season model in 2012, and we were recognized as a top-three entrepreneurship ecosystem developer in 2014 by the Global Innovation Summit. For more information: www.ideavillage.org