

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

StartupAZ Announces 10 New Startup Leaders to Join the StartupAZ Collective

The 10 leaders represent some of the Valley's highest-potential startups

PHOENIX (May 12, 2023) – [StartupAZ](#), the organization created to catalyze Arizona's technology and innovation ecosystem by connecting and empowering entrepreneurs, today announced the 10 local startup founders and CEOs in the 2023 StartupAZ Collective Growth cohort. The incoming founders and CEOs represent some of the Valley's highest-potential startups and will join the ranks of some of the region's most successful startups to date.

The leaders selected for the cohort underwent rigorous judging criteria based on growth potential, innovation, and commitment to equity and diversity. Their companies span industries ranging from education to fintech and healthtech to cybersecurity and the gig economy.

"Every year we're amazed by the quality and diversity of leaders who apply to join the StartupAZ Collective and the work they're doing to contribute to the Valley's performance and generosity flywheel," said StartupAZ CEO Diana Vowels. "It will be amazing to watch their personal and organizational growth over the course of this next year. I'm confident we'll see countless new jobs created, some successful capital raises, and double-digit growth among many of the startups in this year's cohort."

The **2023 StartupAZ Collective Growth** cohort leaders include:

- Annie Zhang, CEO, **Hirey**
- Ian Prendergast, CEO, **Toothio**
- Jonathan Cottrell, CEO, **Journeyage**
- Kevin Longoria, CEO, **RPM-One**
- Lauren Fitzpatrick Shanks, CEO, **KeepWOL**
- Minky Kernacs, CEO, **Mercurio Analytics**
- Norman Rodriguez, CEO, **Elevate**
- Paul Leuer, CEO, **Big Data Studios**
- Srinivasan, CEO, **Petista**
- Theo Nasser, Co-founder & CEO, **Right-Hand Cybersecurity**

The goal of StartupAZ Collective is to bring entrepreneurs together to combine their talent, network, and resources to help each other achieve milestones and create a lasting impact on the community. Leaders accepted into the Collective make a one-year commitment that kicks off with a three-day summer retreat, followed by monthly accountability check-ins with their cohort, which are facilitated by StartupAZ's Director of Venture Development, Annette Zinky. Startup leaders are also supported by the StartupAZ Collective Founders in Residence (FIR) network, which includes seasoned startup leaders like Heidi Jannenga, Jim Prendergast, Brenda Schmidt, and Gregg Scoresby, as well as StartupAZ Collective alums Chris Ronzio, Jamie Baxter, Mike Kovarik, Colin Turner and Jacob Findlay, to name a few.

ABOUT STARTUPAZ

StartupAZ formed in 2015 to empower a stronger statewide ecosystem for high-growth companies to scale, catalyzing Arizona's new economy rooted in technology and innovation. The nonprofit organization exists to help Arizona's most innovative startup companies improve their leadership, performance, and connections, while inspiring generosity and philanthropy within their communities. It does this through three primary pillars: connectivity, capital and talent. For more information, visit startupaz.org.

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Twitter: [@Startup_AZ](#)

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CHAT GPT Suggestion 1:

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The 11 leaders selected for the cohort underwent rigorous judging criteria based on growth potential, innovation, and commitment to equity and diversity. Their companies span industries ranging from education to fintech and healthtech to cybersecurity and the gig economy.

"Every year we're amazed by the quality and diversity of leaders who apply to join the StartupAZ Collective and the work they're doing to contribute to the Valley's performance and generosity flywheel," said StartupAZ CEO Diana Vowels. "It will be amazing to watch their personal and organizational growth over the course of this next year. I'm confident we'll see countless new jobs created, some successful capital raises, and double-digit growth among many of the startups in this year's cohort."

The 2023 StartupAZ Collective Growth cohort leaders include:

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Annie Zhang, CEO, Hirey
Ian Prendergast, CEO, Toothio
Jonathon Cottrell, CEO, Journeyage
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ChatGPT

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Sure, I can help you improve your press release. Here are some suggested edits:

Title: StartupAZ Welcomes 11 New Leaders to Its Collective Growth Cohort, Featuring Some of Arizona's Highest-Potential Startups

PHOENIX (May 12, 2023) – StartupAZ, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and connecting Arizona's startup community, has announced the 11 local startup founders and CEOs selected for its 2023 Collective Growth cohort. The incoming leaders represent a diverse array of industries, including education, fintech, healthtech, cybersecurity, and the gig economy, and have demonstrated exceptional growth potential, innovation, and commitment to equity and diversity.

According to Diana Vowels, CEO of StartupAZ, "Every year we're amazed by the quality and diversity of leaders who apply to join the StartupAZ Collective and the work they're doing to contribute to the Valley's performance and generosity flywheel. It will be amazing to watch their personal and organizational growth over the course of this next year. I'm confident we'll see countless new jobs created, some successful capital raises, and double-digit growth among many of the startups in this year's cohort."

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Founded in 2015, StartupAZ is a nonprofit organization that empowers a stronger statewide ecosystem for high-growth companies to scale, catalyzing Arizona's new economy rooted in technology and innovation. Its mission is to help Arizona's most innovative startup companies improve their leadership, performance, and connections, while inspiring generosity and philanthropy within their communities. StartupAZ achieves this through three primary pillars: connectivity, capital, and talent. For more information, visit startupaz.org.

These changes aim to improve the flow and clarity of the press release, while still highlighting the achievements of the 11 new leaders and the mission of StartupAZ.

Was this response better or worse?

Better

Worse

Same

Regenerate response