



**“Breaking News” The 2020 Innovation Showcase Competition is complete!**

**Three... No! Four Winners for 2020!!!!**

Indianapolis (October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020) **The Venture Club of Indiana in its 12<sup>th</sup> year executed on its first Virtual Innovation Showcase and is proud to announce the four winners out of a highly selective field of 20 companies!**

As the judging took place for the Innovation Showcase, it became clear to the judges that two companies were in an “absolute tie” for second place. Once again, Chris LaMothe of Elevate Ventures volunteered to increase the prize package to accommodate the additional winner! (Elevate made a similar gesture at the 2019 Showcase as well.) So the Showcase this year touted four winning companies! However, according to the judges, all the companies were winners!!

**“This year’s Innovation Showcase highlighted the impressive variety of innovative startups we have here in Indiana,” said Chris LaMothe, CEO of Elevate Ventures. “The Venture Club’s work on the Showcase really complements Elevate Ventures’ goal of developing and sustaining cultures of innovation and entrepreneurship in our state.”**

**1<sup>st</sup> place: \$10,000 -- [Mito Material](#) - Haley Marie** -- Mito Material Solutions makes the secret sauce for composite materials with specialty additives that boost performance and durability of fiber-reinforced polymer materials. Their products are engineered to help manufacturers build a lighter, more durable future.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$4,000 -- [Stagetime, Inc.](#) -- Jennie Moser** -- Stagetime is the professional network for the performing arts – an online network where artists, artistic administrators, and agents can grow as professionals and maintain relationships by engaging with industry connections, showcasing their media and interacting with colleagues and collaborators.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$4,000 -- [SafeKeeping, Inc.](#) –Doug Wilcox** -- SafeKeeping is changing the way senior care facilities are communicating and engaging with families by creating new family connections and insights Senior care facilities can now easily share relevant information and important updates through text, email and apps, pulled directly from their EHR system.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$2,000 -- [Qualifi](#) – Darrian Mikell** -- Qualifi is an on-demand phone interview platform that lets recruiters’ pre-record, send, and administer audio interviews over the phone at scale.

Nominating Venture Club Investor members included [Purdue Foundry/Purdue Ventures](#), [Allos Ventures](#)

[Elevate Ventures](#), [High Alpha](#), [gener8tor](#), [VisionTech](#), [IU Ventures](#), and [M25](#) based on the following criteria:

- Based in Indiana
- Have raised no more than \$2.5 MM in outside dilutive capital since formation
- Bona fide expectation of raising follow up capital within the next 12 months
- Have received an investment (cash/growth resources) from nominating investor
- Cannot have placed in the top 3 at any of the prior Innovation Showcase

Along with the startup company awards, attendees received insights on future innovation from Scott Jones, CEO of ElevenFifty Academy. Scott's keynote platform discussed "Immersion Innovation – How Indiana Wins" and the future path created with the advent of 5G. Scott Dorsey, Managing Partner, at High Alpha Capital and Gerry Dick, Inside Indiana Business, discussed Dorsey's recent Board position to the National Venture Capital Association and the evolution of Venture Capital in Indiana. Chris LaMothe, CEO of Elevate Ventures provided an update on Venture Capital statistics in Indiana in 2020. Next, the Showcase featured one of the 2019 winners with an interview between Megan Lohman, CEO Plan Forward and Don Aquilano, Managing Partner of Allos Ventures. To conclude the event, a special panel discussion of Corporate investors to share an interesting discussion around the "in's and out's" of Corporate Venture Capital and its growth in the state.

The dream of the Showcase committee was to "host more than just a webinar" and to provide the ability for attendees to interact before and after the showcase "at will". They looked no further than to one of their own Investor members, High Alpha, for the solution. "Spaces by High Alpha" provided a seamless virtual-meeting platform to "mingle" with the sponsors/pitch companies as well as attend the "main stage" Showcase. This demonstrates again the incredible innovation right here in Indiana!!

With "Breaking News" fanfare announced by Gerry Dick, the four winners were brought to the virtual stage amid congratulations from the judges and board members of the Venture Club.

A special thank you to all of the Innovation Showcase sponsors: **Elevate Ventures, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, Purdue Foundry, Purdue Ventures, 50 South Capital, Signature Bank, Straticos, Allos Ventures, Inside Indiana Business, High Alpha, When You Leave The Room, & Katz Sapper & Miller.**

Another Showcase enters the record books, and the Board Members of the Venture Club looks forward to the 2021 Innovation Showcase. . Stay tuned for more announcements to come!

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**About Venture Club of Indiana**

Venture Club of Indiana is a member-based, volunteer-led organization that thrives on the ideas and efforts of its members since its inception in 1984. As a catalyst for increased investing in Indiana business, the Investor focused Venture Club of Indiana is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs, investors, and the professional community convene to network, creating opportunities for education and information sharing through its programs and monthly luncheon meetings. For more information about membership, please check our website at [www.ventureclub.org](http://www.ventureclub.org).

**About The Innovation Showcase**

The Innovation Showcase is Indiana's premier, carefully curated startup pitch event for capital sources to connect with fundable companies. Adding a dedicated reach to the entire state of Indiana, "The Road to the Showcase" reached 10 cities around the state creating the path to the Showcase by bringing some of the best startups in Indiana. "Where Capital Meets Innovation"