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**For Immediate Release**

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**RAIN Brings Entrepreneurial Support Program to East Linn County**

*April Meetups scheduled for Lebanon and Sweet Home*

The [Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network \(RAIN\)](#), a state and regionally funded entrepreneurial support organization, has partnered with local stakeholders to offer assistance to East Linn County startups.

The organization has scheduled two FREE Meetups for local entrepreneurs to learn about resources to help grow their business and network with other innovators who are launching or assisting companies in East Linn County. Small business owners, service providers and angel investors are also invited to attend:

**Lebanon — "Beer, Snacks and Startups!"**

Tue, April 4th | 5:30 - 6:30PM

Conversion Brewery | 833 S Main St.

(no cost, includes light snacks and a drink)

**RSVP at [bit.ly/LebanonMeetup](http://bit.ly/LebanonMeetup)**

**Sweet Home — "Donuts, Coffee and Startups!"**

Thu, April 20th | 8:00 - 9:00AM

Sugar Vibes | 1302 Long St. (New Sweet Home location)

(no cost, includes donuts and a drink)

**RSVP at [bit.ly/SweetHomeMeetup](http://bit.ly/SweetHomeMeetup)**

RAIN has successfully launched entrepreneurial outreach programs in the rural Oregon communities of Albany, Florence and Lincoln County. It also operates two business accelerators in Eugene and Corvallis.

"We believe that good ideas can come from anywhere, and we're proven right time and time again by what we've seen from our rural entrepreneurs. We're excited to meet East Linn County's innovators; find out what problems they are trying to solve and how we can help them," said Caroline Cummings, Venture Catalyst for RAIN.

RAIN's local partners include Linn County, Linn Benton Community College, the Oregon Small Business Development Center Network; the cities of Lebanon, Sweet Home and Brownsville, the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, Business Oregon, Oregon Cascades West Council of

Governments (OCWCOG), Albany-Millersburg Economic Development Corporation and the Governor's Regional Solutions office.

“East Linn County is a unique region. We have economic roots in agriculture and wood products; we live in a beautiful setting with access to world-class outdoor recreation; we have continuing-education opportunities through Linn-Benton Community College, and state-of-the-art facilities for medical sciences at Western University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific - Northwest. We believe these influences position Lebanon and the greater East Linn County area for an innovative economy, and we’re excited to partner with RAIN on this mission,” said Lebanon City Manager Gary Marks.

### **About Oregon RAIN**

The Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN) is an Oregon consortium of government, higher education, and the business community. RAIN was founded by the State of Oregon’s Regional Solutions network and funded by the 77th Oregon State Legislative Assembly to advance the formation of high-growth innovative startup companies located in Lane, Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

In coordination with many cities and communities throughout the region, RAIN is partnered with two accelerators to create a collaborative environment to assist entrepreneurs in establishing viable companies that generate jobs, wealth and opportunities for the region. RAIN Corvallis is served by the Oregon State University Advantage Accelerator. The RAIN Eugene Accelerator is a partnership between the University of Oregon and the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information about RAIN, visit [www.oregonrain.org](http://www.oregonrain.org).

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