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City of Albany partners with Oregon RAIN to offer startup program

Albany, Ore. — RAIN is taking on new meaning for local entrepreneurs and startup enthusiasts in the mid-Willamette Valley

The City of Albany, in collaboration with the Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network, or RAIN, will host the Startup Albany Meetup on Wednesday, February 24, from 8 to 9 a.m., at the Brick and Mortar Cafe (222 W 1st Ave). Attendees will meet other individuals who are starting companies and/or helping entrepreneurs launch and grow businesses. The meetup is free to attend, and coffee and tea will be provided. For more information, including registration, visit: <http://bit.ly/Albany-RAIN-Meetup1>

“Cultivating our entrepreneurs is essential to a strong regional economy,” said City of Albany Economic Development and Urban Renewal Director Kate Porsche. “We are thrilled to partner with Oregon RAIN on this initiative because we have seen this program act as a catalyst for entrepreneurs in communities very similar to ours.”

RAIN is a state and regionally funded consortium of government, higher education and business communities in Lane, Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties. It helps to advance entrepreneurship through programs that lead to innovation, mentorship and investment in high-growth companies. It also supports two business accelerators: RAIN Eugene and RAIN Corvallis/Oregon State University Advantage Accelerator.

“We’ve had a lot of success introducing the RAIN model in other areas of the state, and Albany certainly has the infrastructure to support and sustain that energy. There’s commercial industry, it’s a short drive from an outstanding accelerator program in Corvallis and there’s new excitement for downtown Albany living and commerce,” said Caroline Cummings, Venture Catalyst for RAIN.

RAIN and the City of Albany have scheduled two more events for the spring: a call of interest on April 5 where people will learn how to launch a new venture in Albany and how to engage the city’s startup activities; and a startup seminar on May 5.

“This program is part of our larger economic development efforts in Albany. I am excited about this new focus on entrepreneurs and their emerging businesses. The goal is to bring together all the necessary pieces of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, which includes entrepreneurs, mentors, investors, government and elected officials,” said Porsche.

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 the Cities of Corvallis and Eugene, as well as 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.

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