

Call of Interest event will seek to channel innovation

Lincoln County is home to trailblazers. It's a place where people come to revolutionize the fishing industry, build some of the best boats in the world and conduct world-class research in marine science.

Later this month, local economic development leaders are hoping to channel that passion for innovation into a new entrepreneurial movement — #StartupLinCo.

Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC), in collaboration with the Oregon Regional Accelerator Innovation Network (RAIN) and the Oregon Coast Community College Small Business Development Center, will host the first-ever Startup Call of Interest event on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Nana's Irish Pub in Newport (613 NW 3rd St.). The event is free; beer, wine and light fare will be served. Attendees are encouraged to preregister at Eventbrite.com (search: Lincoln County Call of Interest event).

At the Call of Interest event, guests will learn about how to launch a new venture in Lincoln County and how to engage the coun-

ty's startup activities. While event organizers expect to see plenty of new entrepreneurs, they also anticipate a strong turnout of existing businesses seeking to grow, as well as those who want to support local startups through time and financial investment.

"We want to offer a new kind of business support through 'acceleration,'" said EDALC executive director Caroline Bauman. "We are reaching out to local innovators to create a network that will benefit and strengthen our economy."

The event will also feature five-minute pitches from Willamette Valley startup companies, as well as presentations by seasoned angel investors and RAIN executives.

"We've had a lot of success introducing the RAIN model in other areas of the state, and Lincoln County certainly has the infrastructure to support those programs. There's commercial industry, a world-class research university in the Hatfield Marine Science Center and, of course, the natural beauty of the Oregon Coast, which is both an inspiration and a draw for entrepreneurs in

our region," said Caroline Cummings, Venture Catalyst for RAIN.

ABOUT OREGON RAIN

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