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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Purdue Polytechnic Innovation Summit planned for April 11-12

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN - The Purdue Polytechnic Institute, one of the 10 academic colleges at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, announced the second annual **Purdue Polytechnic Innovation Summit** will be held **April 11-12, 2017.** The summit will focus on the next wave of innovation and entrepreneurship.

A report on the progress made from the inaugural summit in 2016 will be presented. Leaders from industry and education will build on that progress in three key areas:

* Makerspace / Fabrication Studio
* Design Thinking / Collaboration
* Innovation Curriculum

Attendees will have the opportunity to attend keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations and to network with entrepreneurs and innovators from around the country.

Keynote speakers include**Noramay Cadena,** cofounder and director of Make in LA, an early stage hardware accelerator and venture fund in Los Angeles; **Greg Horowitt,** cofounder and managing director of T2 Venture Creation and coauthor of *The Rainforest: The Secret to Building the Next Silicon Valley*; and **Connor Van Ooyen,** a Purdue University student studying nutrition and economics and current leader of The Anvil, a nonprofit co-working space for entrepreneurs of Purdue and the Greater Lafayette community and their startups.

Presenters include **Ton Jin Kum,** associate professor of industrial design in the Patti & Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts; **Steven Hoey,** senior director of CONNECT Springboard and Innovation Research in San Diego; and **Matthew Swabey,** inaugural director of the Bechtel Innovation Design Center, currently under construction at Purdue.

Panelists include **Alexander Bandar,** director of the Columbus Idea Foundry; **Lada Rasochova,** executive director of the California Institute for Innovation and Development, managing director of the Rady Venture Fund and director of StartR and mystartupXX accelerators at the Rady School of Management at the University of California San Diego; **Amelia Gandara,** community leader at GE Fuse; **John Wechlser,**founder of Launch Indiana; **Rich Cox,** lecturer at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and the Stanford Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (d.school); **Bryan Ritchie,** vice president and associate provost for innovation at the University of Notre Dame; **Abram Walton,**professor of management at the Florida Institute of Technology; **Meera Sampath,** founding director of the Xerox Research Center India; **Joel Gordon,**founder of the North Little Rock Mini-Maker

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Faire and co-founder, director and CEO of the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub; **Amy O'Keefe,** associate director of Northwestern University's Master of Science in Engineering Design Innovation (EDI) program; and **Gary Schoeniger,** an author, educator and entrepreneur in entrepreneurial mindset education.

The summit will be held at the Buchanan Club at Ross-Ade Stadium on Purdue University's main campus in West Lafayette, Indiana. Attendees are asked to register at [*polytechnic.purdue.edu/innovation-summit/registration*](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/innovation-summit/registration). The event is free, and attendees are welcome to come for one or both days. For additional information about the summit, including the schedule, lodging and parking, please see [*polytechnic.purdue.edu/innovation-summit*](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/innovation-summit).

Source: Matt McKillip, mmckillip@purdue.edu, 765-455-9464

*Photos of the keynote speakers are available online:*[*https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/newsroom/media-room*](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/newsroom/media-room)*.*

**About Purdue Polytechnic**

The Purdue Polytechnic Institute is one of 10 academic colleges at Purdue University, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines: aviation, computing, construction management, engineering technology, technology leadership, and technology education. In addition to Purdue University’s main campus in West Lafayette, Indiana, Purdue Polytechnic offers select degree programs in nine Indiana communities.

The academic programs combine theory-based applied learning, team-based projects, integrated humanities studies, competency-based credentialing, and a series of experiential components such as industry-sponsored senior capstone projects, internships, global immersions, and certification-earning activities. The Polytechnic learning experience is designed to produce graduates who not only have deep technical knowledge and applied skills in their chosen discipline, but also possess problem-solving, critical thinking, communications, and leadership skills sought by industries and communities.

Through the vision of Purdue University, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, and the City of Indianapolis, the first Purdue Polytechnic High School will open in August, 2017, in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana, with the mission to offer the best and most beneficial educational experience for students who want to pursue high-tech and STEM-related careers.

Whether delivering a transformed learning experience to produce industry-ready graduates who have the skills for today’s economy or conducting use-inspired research to advance the evolution of technology and solve real-world challenges, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute aims to be a global leader.

Purdue Polytechnic was founded in 1964 as Purdue University’s School of Technology. It was renamed College of Technology in 2005, and in 2015, the Board of Trustees approved its current name in support of the college’s transformation and as part of President Mitch Daniels’ *Purdue Moves* initiative.

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