



Home | Contact Us | Login
National Collegiate Inventors
& Innovators Alliance



SCHEDULE

▲

AI2V 1: Waltham, MA - 8/1-4
AI2V 2: Urbana, IL - 9/9-12
Southfield, MI - 9/28
Kansas City, MO - 9/29
St. Paul, MN - 10/6
 Fargo-Moorehead, MN - 10/12
Ontario, FL - 11/2

▼

[About Us](#)

[Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[Archives](#)

[Purchase the I2V
Participant Guide](#)

[Read our Weblog](#)

[Contact I2V](#)

ARCHIVES - 2006



I2V LTU Michigan: Speaker Profiles

Save the Date!

Click on a name to learn more about the speaker.

MADE POSSIBLE BY:



- [Andy Meisner](#)
- [Mark Clevey](#)
- [Matt Roush](#)
- [Keith Cooley](#)
- [James Goebel](#)
- [Raymond Gunn](#)
- [Richard A. Jones](#)
- [Josh Linkner](#)
- [Tad Machrowicz](#)
- [Maria Thompson](#)
- [Michael D. Witt](#)
- [Laura Howard](#)

Representative Andy Meisner, Michigan State Legislature

Andy Meisner was elected to the Michigan Legislature in 2002. He currently serves as Assistant Democratic Leader, Vice-Chair of both the House of Commerce Committee and Ethics, Oversight and Campaign Finance Committee, and as a member of the Tax Policy Committee. Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Mr. Meisner to serve on the Michigan Mental Health Commission and tapped him as a key House sponsor of both her plan to cut the Single Business Tax and her \$2 billion bond proposal. Currently, he is leading the charge to ease legislative restrictions on embryonic stem cell research. He also has prior experience as a policy analyst for Congressman Sandy Levin and vice president of the national, non-profit Drug-Free Kids Campaign (CADCA).

Mr. Meisner recently received the Legislator of the Year award from the League of Conservation Voters and the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals. He is also the recipient of the 2005 Rising Star Award of the DC-based 21st Century Democrats. Mr. Meisner was the co-founder of the Michigan Democratic Action Network (MDAN). He has twice been profiled on CNN's Lou Dobbs program.

[Back to top](#)

Mark Clevey, Vice President, Entrepreneurial Development Center Executive Director, Small Business Foundation of Michigan

Mark H. Clevey is a nationally recognized specialist in cutting-edge entrepreneurial business development. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a Western Michigan University Honors College Graduate where he received two academic scholarships. He holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration (MPA), with emphasis in cutting-edge industry development and public-private partnerships. He also holds an Advanced Business Counselor Certification from the Michigan Small Business Development Center Network (MI-SBDC). He is a member of Kappa Delta Pi (Honors Society in Education) and has extensive experience in corporate training. He has also been an Adjunct College Instructor in Renewable Energy and American Government and lectured extensively in Entrepreneur Development.

Mark has worked in both the public and private sectors and has over 30 years of experience in cutting-edge business development. Currently he is the Executive Director for the Small Business Foundation of Michigan (SBFM). In this capacity, he also serves as the Vice President for Entrepreneurial Development with the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM). SBAM is dedicated to fostering and Entrepreneurial Economy in the state, characterized by the robust creation,

retention, expansion and attraction of entrepreneurial small businesses. SBFM funds research and demonstration projects designed to investigate the NEXUS between Entrepreneurship and other economic drivers (e.g., education, etc.). During this period, Mark has received five awards and recognitions for his work: Vision 2000 Award (1999) (Model Economic Development Program), U.S. Small Business Administration; 2000 Advance America Honor Role, American Society of Association Executives; Award for Excellence (2003), ENERGY STAR Small Business Program; Outstanding Leadership, Support and Faith in the Cause (2005), Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, LLC; Leaders and Innovators Award (2005), Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, Michigan

[Back to top](#)

Matt Roush, Technology Editor, Great Lakes IT Report

Matt Roush joined WWJ Newsradio 950 in August 2001 to spearhead the launch of the Great Lakes IT Report, a daily IT newsletter delivered via email first thing every business morning. As Technology Editor of GLITR, Roush covers the tech world broadly, from hardware, software, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and tech education.

Roush most recently was at Crain's Detroit Business, where he worked for more than 10 years. His beat included banking and finance and retailing. In 1994, while covering retailing for Crain's, he discovered a novel medium called the Internet, which retailers worried at that time was going to put every store out of business. In 1998 he started covering technology full time, including the rise and fall (and rise) of the dot-com in Detroit. Roush later was promoted to editor of CrainTech.com in October 2000 -- a job he held until joining WWJ.

Roush's journalism background is extensive. He has covered beats as varied as business, health care, local government and real estate for the Kalamazoo Gazette, the Traverse City Record-Eagle the Leelanau Enterprise in Leland and the Three Rivers Commercial. Roush, a resident of Dearborn, is active in his community and church. He has won numerous journalism awards from the Associated Press, UPI, the Association of Area Business Publications and internal awards from Crain Communications Inc. His hobbies include web surfing, cross country skiing, camping, hiking, astronomy, gardening, and building and flying model rockets. Roush is a native of Three Rivers and a 1978 graduate of Albion College.

[Back to top](#)

Keith W. Cooley, Focus: HOPE, CEO

Keith W. Cooley has more than 30 years' experience in business and engineering. Known as an innovative problem solver, Mr. Cooley joined Focus: HOPE in 2002, as its chief operating officer and was appointed chief executive officer in 2006. Educated as a nuclear engineer, he had previously worked at General Motors, where he held positions as director of strategic planning in corporate communications; program manager and engineering director in the Cadillac division; and project engineer. Before that he served as director of sales for Motorola's GM Telematics account. In 1997, he founded Principia, Inc., a consulting company to help organizations with crisis management and critical change. His clients included Raytheon Corp., University of Michigan, National Black MBA Association, Hughes Electronics, Detroit Edison, The United Auto Workers, and the GEM Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities.

Keith received both a bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics and a master's degree in Nuclear Engineering, from the University of Michigan. Cooley is active in the Engineering Society of Detroit and founded the Minority Engineering Projects Office at the University of Michigan. He has won several awards including General Motors "Best of the Best," and Tau Beta Pi Eminent Engineer.

[Back to top](#)

James Goebel, Menlo Innovations, Chief Architect

James Goebel, co-founder of Menlo Innovations in Ann Arbor, Michigan, has practiced custom software development for more than 20 years as a developer, team lead, system architect, project manager, practice director, and executive coach. His work in commercial software development has spanned many domains including bio-informatics, diagnostic medical imaging, vehicle monitoring, test generation, online bill presentment, and digital archives.

Mr. Goebel earned an MBA from Eastern Michigan University. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), a licensed Michigan Residential Builder. He is also the author of several software publications, including Paired Programming in the Software Factory (2003), Introduction to Extreme Programming (2001), Writing Story Cards (2001), and Software Project Management (2001).

[Back to top](#)

Raymond W. Gunn, Wingspan Partners, LLC, Managing Director

Raymond Gunn is the founder of Wingspan Partners, LLC, formed to assist entrepreneurs in realizing their potential. He has 26 years of broad industry experience as a financial and operating executive, including over the last 18 years acting as principal financial and strategic architect in the funding, growth, and sale of 10 early stage ventures/companies. Mr. Gunn previously served as president and CEO of Clarity Technologies, Inc., where he was part of a team which developed the company into one of Michigan's fastest growing technology companies, earning nine industry awards, including Michigan's "2004 Technology Company of the Year." Also, he was executive president and CFO of Somanetics Corporation, which he joined in its development stage, raised \$52 million public and private transactions,

and guided it through the IPO/FDA processes. His other prior experience includes holding positions as senior financial/operating officer with Automation Data Corp., a privately held automotive supply company; president/COO of a subsidiary of Central Holding Company; financial manager with Pulte Home Corporation; and practice as a CPA with Deloitte & Touche as an emerging business specialist.

Mr. Gunn has a Bachelor of Science degree from Oakland University and Master's Studies at Walsh College. He serves as a member of the Board of Visitors for Oakland University's School of Business Administration, the Board of Directors of WonderPizzaUSA, Strategic Financial Services, Strategic Bank of Michigan, and is a member of the Gerson Lehrman Group Accounting Council. He is also a former Vice Chair for the John F. Kennedy Small Business Caucus and former Board Member of Digital Detroit, a non-profit organization focused on energizing Michigan's high-tech economy, and the Association for the Corporate Growth and the Medical Device Manufacturers Association. In 1992, Mr. Gunn was recognized as an influential business leader in Crain's 40 under 40.

[Back to top](#)

Richard A. Jones, Dickinson Wright, PLLC, Member

Richard A. Jones is attorney with Dickinson Wright, PLLC, specializing in Intellectual Property, Business Technology, International Law, and Information Technology & Security Law. He clients include Advics North America, Petronas, S-Y Systems Technologies, Inc., USUI International Corporation, and Visteon Automotive. He has served as Division Counsel, Assistant Secretary, and Executive Committee Member for Tier 1 automotive suppliers; as Counsel to numerous automotive related companies for the identification and protection of intellectual property; and as Counsel to a major global corporation for the joint development of automotive related technologies around the world.

Mr. Jones earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association, and the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit.

[Back to top](#)

Josh Linkner, ePRIZE, Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Josh Linkner has been involved in the development of hundreds of digital marketing strategies and e-commerce solutions over the last 13 years. He has led ePRIZE from inception to being ranked the #1 fastest growing and #3 overall promotion agency by PROMO magazine. ePRIZE has produced an industry-leading 2,000 interactive promotions for clients including Coca-Cola, American Express, The Gap, Procter & Gamble, Warner Brothers, Dell, Adidas, The Home Depot and General Motors. Despite challenging economic times, he achieved annualized revenue growth over 100% since 1999. Mr. Linkner also founded and built one of the first web marketing agencies, GlobalLink New Media, which grew to be recognized as a "Top 100 Interactive Agency" by Advertising Age magazine, and in 1999 sold to a publicly traded firm. In addition, he served as Senior Vice President for Rare Medium Group, a 1,100 person web consulting and venture capital firm, where he assisted with strategic expansion and acquisition activities as a member of the leadership team.

Mr. Linkner is a graduate of the University of Florida where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising from the University of Florida. He has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Business 2.0, Ad Age, Inc., Entrepreneur, and the Direct Marketing News. He is also a prominent speaker at numerous industry events. He has won several business, technology, and design awards including the 2004 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, The Inc. 500, Crain's Detroit 40 under 40, and the Michigan Fast 50.

[Back to top](#)

Tad Machrowicz, Executive Director, Engineering & Product Development, Pullman Industries, Inc.

Mr. Machrowicz has over 20 years of experience in the aerospace and automotive industry. He worked for Douglas Aircraft, and consulted for the Air Force prior to joining the auto industry in 1989 with Delphi, formerly Delco Products.

At Delphi, he was responsible for the development and production implementation of the highly successful AutoRide and MSR controlled suspension systems still used today on several vehicle platforms. The group that Mr. Machrowicz led continued to evolve this controlled monotube damper design and has gained further success with the MagaRide system available on many vehicles including the high performance Corvette and Ferrari nameplates. These systems help reestablish Delphi's controlled suspension group as the preeminent supplier of high value, high technology suspension systems in the worldwide auto industry.

Today, Mr. Machrowicz is the Executive Director of Engineering and Product Development for Pullman Industries in Troy, MI. Pullman supplies the auto industry OEMs body structure components ranging from trim to engineered structure and impact systems. The introduction of the P-tech® process providing highly engineered, ultra high strength steel impact structures has established Pullman in recent years as a recognized innovator in this market. He is responsible for continuing the development and introduction of high value technologies relating to the auto structures and steel processing industries, as well as product development and customer application.

Mr. Machrowicz received his BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia and Masters Degree from University of Dayton in Engineering Management. He holds multiple patents ranging from auto component design in suspension, electrical systems, and structural systems. His work in the

controlled suspension group at Delphi afforded him Delphi's highest engineering honor, the "Boss Kettering" Award in 2000.

[Back to top](#)

Maria Thompson, T/J Technologies, President and CEO

Maria Thompson has over seventeen years of experience in product development, sales and marketing. She has served as President of T/J Technologies since its inception, leading it to become one of the fastest growing R&D companies in Michigan. Ms. Thompson earned both a degree in Industrial Design and an MBA from the University Michigan. Her industrial experience includes working in product development at Steelcase Corporation and in a global automobile market segment technology and service business for IBM.

Ms. Thompson was recently chosen as one of the Business Direct Weekly's Most Influential Women for 2004 and has been recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as one of Metro Detroit's "Innovators". She serves on the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee and is a past Board member of the Small Business Association of Michigan.

[Back to top](#)

Michael D. Witt, PharmD, JD, Technology Enterprise Development Co., Inc. (TEDCO), CEO and President

Michael D. Witt is an early-stage biomedical technology executive. With over 23 years experience, he has addressed issues ranging from negotiating international corporate transactions and license agreements, as well as building companies and raising money. He has worked in health care and life science policy development, biomedical ethics, FDA regulations, hospital and health care management, venture capital development, and non-profit corporation administration. He is an experienced organizational manager, particularly in university medical technologies and the life sciences industry. Most recently, Dr. Witt was Executive Director of MichBio, the industry trade association dedicated to growing the life science industry in the state of Michigan. Under Dr. Witt's leadership, the association flourished from 70 to over 200 members, tripling the staff of the organization and more than doubling its operating budget. Prior to joining MichBio, he was CEO of vCure.com, Inc., a healthcare information and software company. He was also a healthcare attorney at Cox, Hodgman & Giarmarco of Troy, Michigan, and Warner & Stackpole, of Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Witt holds a PharmD from the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy, and a JD from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in California and Michigan.

[Back to top](#)

Laura Howard, Program Associate , Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN), NCIIA

Laura joined NCIIA in 2006 as a Program Associate for the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN), developing vital resources for building quality undergraduate entrepreneurship education programs that will instill an action oriented entrepreneurial mindset in engineering, science and technical undergraduates.

Laura's passion is supporting entrepreneurial efforts at the business and economic development strategy levels. At the business venture level, Laura has worked as a lender with the Western Massachusetts Enterprise Fund and as an independent financing consultant, securing millions in financing and grant support for clients; and as a market strategist with the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center and MassVentures, providing critical due diligence and strategic partner identification to new and early stage technology ventures. In terms of economic development, Laura has worked as Project Manager with the MSBDC, the UMASS Center for Manufacturing Productivity and MassVentures in the development and launch of several successful collaborative efforts between university, government and private sector partners, including: Partners for Trade, the successful Massachusetts training and counseling initiative targeting new-to-export businesses; an intensive regional UMASS/BSI ISO 9000 program; the Business & Industry Data Center, a statewide custom market research service utilizing UMASS students and library resources; and a specialized multi-session entrepreneurship education program for new and early stage technology development ventures poised for rapid growth.

Laura received her BA, cum laude, from Mount Holyoke College, and an MBA from UMASS/Amherst.

[Back to top](#)

[<Back to workshop](#)

NCIIA • 100 Venture Way, Hadley MA 01035 • Tel: 1.413.587.2172 • Fax: 1.413.587.2175 • www.nciia.org • info@invention2venture.org
© 2005 NCIIA All Rights Reserved.