



THE IDEA X VILLAGE



MISSION AND VISION

—

MISSION

**TO IDENTIFY, SUPPORT, AND RETAIN
ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENT IN THE
NEW ORLEANS REGION**

VISION

**NEW ORLEANS AS A
HUB FOR INNOVATION
IN THE GULF SOUTH**

WHAT DOES IDEA VILLAGE DO?

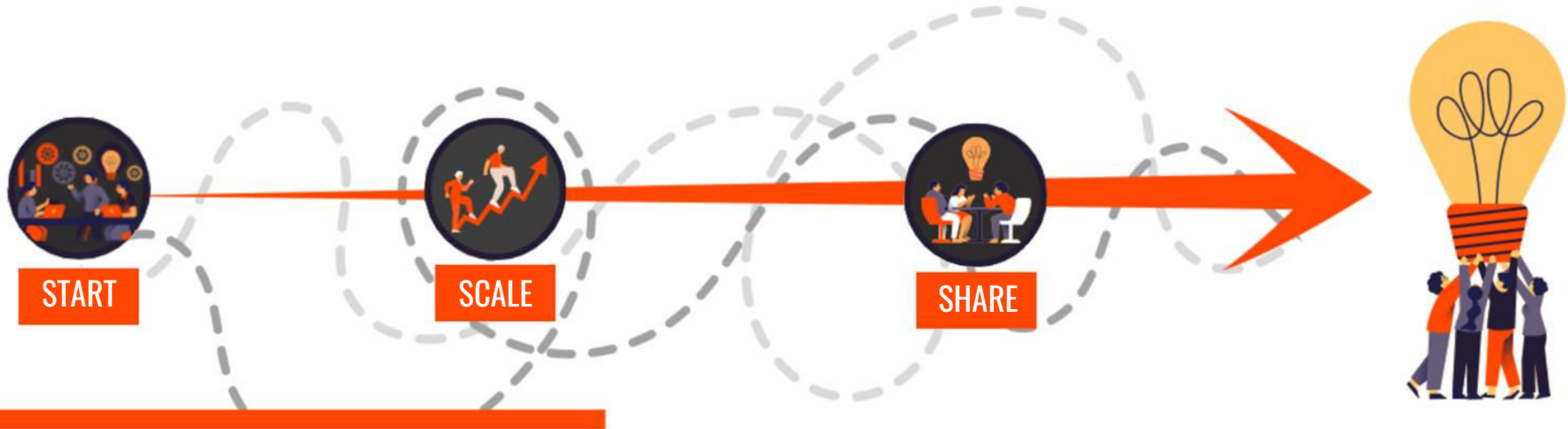
" THE IDEA VILLAGE IDENTIFIES AND SUPPORTS COMPANIES THAT CAN HAVE AN **OUTSIZED ECONOMIC IMPACT IN OUR REGION."**



* KEY STORYTELLING & BRAND MESSAGING:

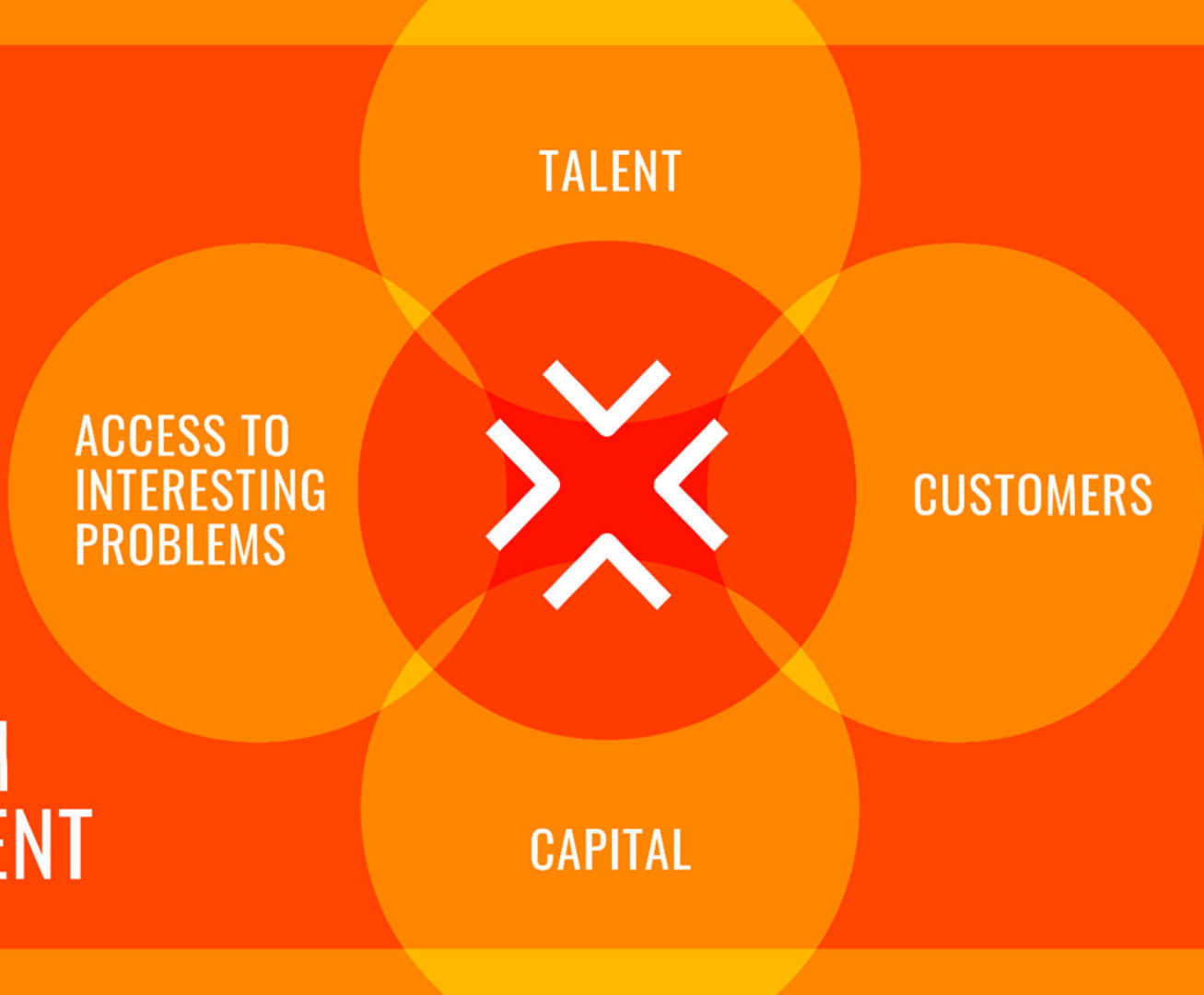
We all want to see more wealth and quality jobs in our community.

The Idea Village helps make that happen by accelerating the long, winding journey from a great idea to a successful startup. Through mentorship, capital, education, and networks, we help ambitious founders reach the next level in their journey and create real economic impact in our region.



**BUILD A VENTURE ECOSYSTEM
THAT CREATES 10 (or more)
\$1M+ STARTUPS PER YEAR**

THE THEORY OF >
**VENTURE
ECOSYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT**



WHEN
FOUNDERS
SUCCEED
WE ALL
SUCCEED



YOUNG
HIGH-TECH
FIRMS
OUTPACE
PRIVATE
SECTOR JOB
CREATION.”

Kauffman Foundation Study, 2013

THE IDEA VILLAGE HAS SERVED **27** COMPANIES THAT HAVE RAISED **\$1M** OR MORE.

CampusKnot

HELLO
GRAVEL

nestor
labs

TMT
labs™

THREE  MEDIA

chckyet
by chckup, inc.

CENTERLINE

carmigo

Kubanda
Cryotherapy

GLASS
HALF FULL

NATRIX
ADAPTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE



WRSTBND

ICONIC

brewsy

hampr

KINEMAGiC



EL GUAPO

SPOT2NITE

SOMETHING BORROWED
BLOOMS

Skilltype

ARIX®
ANALYTICS | ROBOTICS | INSPECTION

RentCheck™

RESEARCH
DEFENDER

skygauge
robotics

ADDIGURU

LAST 5 YEARS



\$97M

TOTAL CAPITAL
RAISED

505

JOBS CREATED

\$41M

TOTAL ANNUAL
REVENUE



PROGRAMS PIPELINE

START

- Entry point to ecosystem
- Early-stage founders
- Socializing startup culture
- Training in Lean Methodology
- Foundational tools to build scalable companies

IDEAInstitute + *Satellite Partners*

START

SOCIALIZATION

SCALE

- Deepening the work
- Capital-readiness; Maturation into investor-ready companies
- Focused R&D
- Finding traction
- Industry specialization

VILLAGE 

Catalyst Programs

SCALE

SELECTIVITY

SHARE

- Showcase collective momentum
- Platform for stories of founders who've reached scale
- Convening to amplify stories and bring in additional mentors, connectors, and capital partners
- Sharing wins with the broader community



MOMENTUM FUND



SHARE

STORIES

VILLAGE^X

2026 COHORT



GEAUX RIVER
Corporation

Dreamland



InService
First in Response



Vetavize

GOPHR.



WhosLive.io

VILLAGEX

2026 COHORT



MENTORS CONTRIBUTED A COMBINED 712 HOURS throughout the program



COMPANIES SPENT AN AVERAGE OF 44 HOURS WITH MENTORS



OUR TOTAL VALUE PROVIDED WAS \$246,117

This accounts for mentor hours + pitch coaching / deck design + events

VILLAGEX

2026 COHORT



\$6.85M Total Capital Raised



+33 Active Jobs

VILLAGE

2026 SPRING DEMO DAY

APRIL 30th

323 REGISTRANTS

220+ IN ATTENDANCE



NOLA Entrepreneurial Ecosystem



25 Years into a 50 Year Journey





Why New Orleans?!

**#1 in USA for Tech
Employment Growth**

Smart Asset 2017

**#2 Most Engaged
Workers in USA**

WalletHub

**Top 5 State for
Digital Entrepreneurs**

Amazon

**“Best City in America for
Creative Professionals”**

SmartAsset

**#1 in the USA for
Young Entrepreneurs**

LendingTree

**#1 State in the USA
for Software Engineers**

Computer Science Online

**#2 in the USA for Growth
in Knowledge Industries**

EMSI

**“New Orleans is the fastest
growing tech cluster in America”**





Area Development 2018

A collage of city buildings and streets. The background features a mix of architectural styles, including historic brick buildings with balconies and modern high-rise office buildings. A central dark grey semi-transparent box contains the text. In the lower right, a street scene is visible with a black lamppost and a white sign that reads "NO STOPPING 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM THURSDAY STREET CLEANING" with a red motorcycle icon. A rainbow flag is also visible on a building in the lower left.

2021 Was the
“Year of Exiting Gracefully”

At least a dozen GNO firms
have enjoyed significant
exits in 2021.



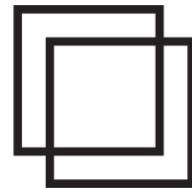
TURBOSQUID	shutterstock	\$75M
	Keywords STUDIOS	\$50M
WHETSTONE	SchoolMint	N/A
LEVELSET	PROCORE	\$500M
GEOCENT	SEV1TECH Secure. Connect. Evolve.	N/A
	MOUNTAIN EXPRESS OIL COMPANY	N/A
LUCID	Cint	\$1.1B
	beliv	N/A
SUNPRO	ADT	\$825M
IMOTO	urbanimmersive	\$5M
	WHOLE EARTH	\$80M

Lucid is the First
“Black & Gold Unicorn”

\$1.1B



LUCID





Local Seed/ Venture Capital Funds

BENSON CAPITAL PARTNERS

Mike Katz
bensoncp.com

REVELRY VENTURE PARTNERS

Gerard Ramos & Peter Liu
revelry.co/ventures

NEW ORLEANS STARTUP FUND

Jimmy Roussel
neworleansstartupfund.org

OCHSNER VENTURES

Aimee Quirk
ochsner.org/ventures

CALLAIS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC
callaiscapital.com

NEW ORLEANS BIO FUND

Kris Khalil
neworleansbio.com/biofund

INNOVATION CATALYST

Bill Ellison
innovationcatalyst.us

JEFFERSON CAPITAL PARTNERS

Joe Truhe
jeffcap.com

CAMELBACK VENTURES

Aaron Walker
camelbackventures.org

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING



**NEW ORLEANS
BIOINNOVATION CENTER**
neworleansbio.com



PROPELLER
gopropeller.org



SCALE
scaleworkspace.com



THE SHOP AT THE CAC
shopworkspace.com



URBAN HUB
urbanhub.work



THE WAREHOUSE
workatthewarehouse.com



CONNECT HUB
lp.co

Incubators/ Specialized Accelerators



PROPELLER
Social Innovation
gopropeller.org

4.0 SCHOOLS
Edtech
4pt0.org

NOBIC
Biotechnology
neworleansbio.com

EO ACCELERATOR PROGRAM
Gazelles
eonetwork.org/eo-accelerator

GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000
Small Businesses Accelerator
10ksbapply.com

FUND 17
Micro Business
fund17.org

Resource Centers

TULANE LEPAGE CENTER

Greater New Orleans Startup Report

Rob Lalka

GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC

Recruitment/Retention

Michael Hecht

LOYOLA CENTER

For Entrepreneurship and
Community Development

Bara Watts

THE BEACH

UNO

Rebecca Conwell

STARTUP NOLA

Ecosystem

Evie Poitevent

startupnola.com





**GROWING
CONNECTIVITY
STATEWIDE**



< LA . IO >

Louisiana Innovation Event Series | 2026



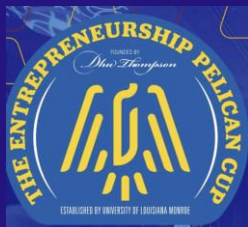
MARCH 9-14



MARCH 10-12



APRIL 22-24



MARCH 26



VARIOUS DATES



DECEMBER 14-16



CAPITAL

—

3RD COAST VENTURE SUMMIT

2026 SUMMIT RECAP

Produced By:

THE IDEA  VILLAGE



By the Numbers

226 Total Attendees

212 registered + 14 staff, interns & labor

41 Selected Startups

55 Founders Present

80 Investors Present

60 Funds Represented

\$3.27B Total AUM

"What stood out most was how **dynamic and interactive** the event felt. It created meaningful opportunities to connect, learn, and exchange ideas. I walked away with a wealth of **new information, fresh perspectives, and a deeper appreciation** for the momentum building across the Gulf South."

- Lauren DeDominic, Innovation Works



2026 SUMMIT RECAP

Founders By The Numbers

Geographic Footprint 30 Companies



NATIONAL REACH*
11 Companies

California · Colorado · Maryland · Michigan · Pennsylvania
South Carolina · Tennessee · Washington · Wisconsin

*Those companies outside of our geographic focus represent either significant operations or plans to relocate to the Third Coast

Industries Highlighted

- Healthcare / Digital Health / BioTech
- Oil & Gas / Carbon Management
- Industrial Automation / SaaS
- Aerospace
- EdTech
- FinTech



2026 SUMMIT RECAP



REGIONAL TECH

—

NEW ORLEANS
ENTREPRENEUR WEEK

NOEW MARCH
9-14

PRODUCED BY

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

POWERED BY

NEW ORLEANS TOURISM
AUTHORITY
NOTCF
— AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION —

<LA.IO>
LOUISIANA INNOVATION



By the Numbers



2.0%

of all New Orleans adults registered to attend a NOEW event.

↑ 5,000

TOTAL REGISTRANTS
ACROSS NOEW WEEK

↑ 2,800

SUMMIT REGISTRANTS

↑ 1,400

ON-SITE SUMMIT
ATTENDEES (+17% YOY)

Our most engaged Summit audience to date.



Summit Programming

Two Days. Every Stage. One Community.

Thursday, March 12
Spark & Connect

Friday, March 13
Build & Launch



↑ 52 TOTAL SESSIONS

↑ 134 TOTAL SPEAKERS

↑ 3 STAGES

- Main stage
- Founders' stage
- Sector stage

↑ 9 SESSION FORMATS

+1.4k

ON-SITE ATTENDEES
ACROSS TWO DAYS



INNOVATE *south*TM

innovation with an accent

powered by:



INNOVATE *south* 2026 RESULTS

innovation with an accent

300

Unique Attendees

22

1-on-1 Meetings
Facilitated

6

Emerging Startup
Pitches

\$25.5K

Non-Dilutive
Funding Awarded



WHAT ATTENDEES ARE SAYING

"This was one of the best, most thought-provoking conferences I have been to in a while."

— Tanya B.

"I'm leaving today encouraged by the fact that innovation is not just happening somewhere else. It's happening here too."

— Chelsea H.

"I had the opportunity to walk right up to the president of a tech company I wanted to work for and introduce myself without feeling awkward."

— Ethan G.

"My second year in a row, and this time I brought 5 people from 5 different cities outside Louisiana. A local startup community that punches above its weight, mixed with participants from major ecosystems, makes this a must-attend every year. I'll be back in 2027 for round three."

— Jack G.

"My first year at Innovate South, and I'm already planning to return. The value in nascent ecosystems is finding undiscovered startups solving unique problems, and Lafayette delivered. I'm confident my experience will lead to investments and broader engagement in the community."

— Rohit G.



ATTRACTION
—



STARTUP
PRiZE™



2026 Program Outcomes

Focus on Innovation

March 4-5 | Shreveport

- 37 ecosystem leaders from across Louisiana — universities, ESOs, investors, and industry
- Out-of-state facilitators sharing what's working in other regions
- 100% rated experience Extremely or Very Valuable
- 100% made new connections; 100% would recommend to a peer

Startup Prize: Energy Q1

May 8-9 | Virtual

- 27 early-stage energy founders from 12 states + 2 countries
- 6 Louisiana-based companies — largest single-state representation (27%)
- 45% founders of color | 64% first-time founders
- 10 mentors + 2 keynotes from Halliburton Labs, Oaktree Capital & Shell
- Top topics: go-to-market, strategic partnerships, tech validation, IP strategy & capital structure

Up Next

Energy Q2

June 26-28 | In-Person | Shreveport



STARTUPPRIZE

Focus on Innovation — Outcomes

By the Numbers

- 100% rated experience Extremely or Very Valuable
- 100% made new connections they plan to follow up on
- 100% would very likely recommend to a peer

In Their Words

"The collection of experts from so many backgrounds, fields, and agencies was valuable."

"This event opened business opportunities for our company last year and I look forward to working with some of the people I met this year."

"An incredibly impressive group — many of whom were folks around the state and country I should know but had never met before."



STARTUPPRIZE Energy Q1 (Virtual)

May 8–9, 2026

Built on Startup Prize: Health's proven model, adapted for early-stage energy innovation.

By the Numbers

- 27 early-stage energy founders nationwide
- 12 U.S. states + 2 international countries represented
- 6 Louisiana-based companies (27% — *largest single-state representation*)
- 23% female founders
- 45% founders of color
- 64% first-time founders
- 10 mentors + 2 keynotes from organizations including Halliburton Labs, Oaktree Capital and Shell

Tracks

Fuels

- Renewable & Biofuels
- Traditional Oil & Gas
- Hydrogen & Alternative Fuels
- Carbon Capture & Utilization
- Waste-to-Energy

Electricity

- Storage & Battery Solutions
- Solar & Wind
- Smart Grid & Grid Technology
- EV & Charging Infrastructure
- Energy Management & Efficiency

Up Next: Energy Q2 — June 26–28 | In-Person | Shreveport, LA



YOUTH PIPELINE





SAVE THE DATE

AWARDS LUNCHEON

MARCH 26, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



DECEMBER 14 - 16, 2026
BATON ROUGE, LA



Produced By:
NEXUS LOUISIANA





STORY TELLING



GOOD NEWS REPORT

Fourth digital edition

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)


Bear and the Bull

The next big emerging market isn't where you think it is.

The 3rd Coast Thesis
Mar 3, 2026 11 min read




27



Loyola's version of New Orleans Entrepreneur Week isn't just for 'tech founders in hoodies'

BY RICH COLLINS | Staff writer
Mar 5, 2026



New Orleans Entrepreneur Week attendees and passersby read in front of the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans in March 2025. This year, Loyola is the event's sole provider. Provided photo.

New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, the annual event for entrepreneurs and businesses, turns 16 this year. And, like many other events, it's trying out a new identity.

NOEW debuted in 2010, when business leaders in New Orleans after Katrina were looking for ways to rebuild the city. In the years that followed, its format evolved with different formats, teamed up with various events, and piggybacked on other events to boost awareness.


18

Forbes

MONEY > FINTech

The 3rd Coast Venture Summit Proves the Gulf South Is No Longer A Long Shot

By Ilona Limontá-Volkova, Contributor.
Published Mar 29, 2026, 02:54pm EDT, Updated Mar 30, 2026



The 2026 edition of the 3rd Coast Venture Summit provided that the Gulf South is no longer a long shot.

"This is a place that gets its hooks in you." That's what you'll hear at the 3rd Coast Venture Summit this spring. In the display, the sentiment extends well beyond the event and into the deal flow too.

4



GOOD NEWS REPORT

MAY 2026

Bear and the Bull

The next big emerging market isn't where you think it is.

The 3rd Coast Thesis
Mar 3, 2026 11 min read



Last fall, I flew to Mississippi for an inaugural festival on economic empowerment in the Deep South.

Not a conference.
Not a summit.

A festival — in a state that most investors could not find on a map without squinting.

I argued then that if you want to understand underbanked, underserved, and underestimated markets, you do not need a passport. The lessons I learned covering Latin America and the African continent for Forbes — how constraint breeds creativity, how community distribution channels outperform digital-first assumptions, how trust must be earned before technology can scale — apply just as cleanly to the Gulf South as they do to Lagos or São Paulo.

In partnership with



Loyola's version of New Orleans Entrepreneur Week isn't just for 'tech founders in hoodies'

BY RICH COLLINS | Staff writer
Mar 5, 2026



New Orleans Entrepreneur Week attendees and passersby walk across the campus of Loyola University New Orleans in March 2025. This year, Loyola is the event's sole producer.
Provided photo

New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, the annual celebration of startup businesses, turns 16 this year. And, like many teenagers, the event is trying out a new identity.

NOEW debuted in 2010, when business leaders in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans were looking for ways to create and keep jobs in the city. In the years that followed, its nonprofit producer experimented with different formats, teamed up with various partners and piggybacked on other events to boost awareness and attendance.

Forbes

MONEY > FINTECH

The 3rd Coast Venture Summit Proves The Gulf South Is No Longer A Long Shot

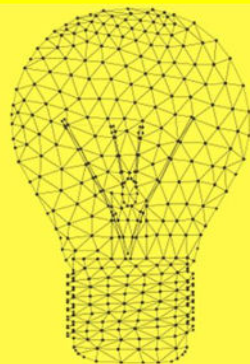
By Ilona Limonta-Volkova, Contributor,
Published Mar 29, 2026, 02:54pm EDT, Updated Mar 30, 2026, 11:41am EDT



The 2026 edition of the 3rd Coast Venture Summit provided that the Gulf South has arrived on the tech scene.

"This is a place that gets its hooks in you." That is how one attendee described New Orleans at the 3rd Coast Venture Summit this spring, and based on what was on display, the sentiment extends well beyond the city's famous hospitality. It applies to the deal flow too.

IDEA institute



SPRING 2026
IN PROGRESS

15th cohort → *967 Alumni*

97 founders building
77 companies from
159 applicants

UPCOMING

Pitch Night

June 18th

Coach Week

June 1st - 4th

LED BY

**Dr.
Karissa
Chao**



THANK YOU

HERE'S TO A

Greater
New Orleans

FOR
ENTREPRENEURS
AND THOSE
WHO
BELIEVE
IN THEM
THE IDEA VILLAGE

