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# Washington Technology Industry Association

# Acquires Northwest Entrepreneur Network

SEATTLE, WA – February 12, 2014 – Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA), the not-for-profit trade association that serves the networking, policy and growth capital interests of technology companies in Washington State, today announced that it has acquired Northwest **Entrepreneur** Network (NWEN), a venerable non-profit dedicated to providing educational, networking, and mentoring programs for the entrepreneur community.   
  
For 29 years, NWEN has served as a catalyst for many regional startups, and inspired the formation of events and organizations that now serve entrepreneurs across the region. As a result of this acquisition, WTIA will now operate two former NWEN event programs: First Look Forum, an ongoing event series designed to connect aspiring entrepreneurs with potential investors; and Entrepreneur University, which provides entrepreneurs with access to mentors that can help them to navigate business challenges. To ensure First Look Forum and Entrepreneur University continue to deliver high value to the entrepreneur community, WTIA plans to work closely with its industry partners, which include Techstars, Madrona Venture Group and Voyager Capital, among many others.

Backed by a vibrant community of technology companies, WTIA is a powerful service platform dedicated to helping the state’s technology industry attract the human and financial capital required to succeed. WTIA is particularly well known for its health insurance offering, which enables small and medium-sized companies to procure attractive and affordable health benefit plans for their employees. WTIA also produces more than 50 professional education and networking events annually, designed to help companies successfully grow their businesses.

“We are thrilled to add these two great programs to the WTIA calendar,” said Michael Schutzler, CEO of WTIA. “Startups formed in Washington have created most of our state job growth over the past two decades. We owe it to our kids and neighbors to help every entrepreneur succeed. WTIA is proud to be working with leaders in the technology, education and government sectors to make it so.”

**About the Washington Technology Industry Association**   
Founded in 1984, the WTIA is a not-for profit industry trade association that supports technology companies and professionals, acting as a catalyst for growth and awareness of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in Washington State. The WTIA helps Washington technology companies prosper through three major strategic initiatives: advocacy, workforce development and fostering technology-based economic growth in the State of Washington. For more information, visit [http://www.washingtontechnology.org](http://ctt.marketwire.com/?release=1040124&id=3280984&type=1&url=http://www.washingtontechnology.org/).

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