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For more information, please contact:

Cesar Hernandez | Omni Public

Phone: (813) 277-6540

Email: ch@omnipublic.global

Tampa Bay Wave welcomes 15 new startups to 2020 TechDiversity Accelerator Cohort

The continued collaboration with the Nielsen Foundation fosters the growth and development of diverse national tech startups while also bringing exposure to the Tampa Bay area.

TAMPA, FL (May 2020) - Tampa Bay Wave, Inc. (Wave), a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping entrepreneurs build, launch, and grow breakout tech businesses in Tampa Bay, is proud to announce their 21st accelerator cohort for the 2020 TechDiversity Accelerator. Tampa Bay Wave has selected fifteen tech companies to join their cohort for the TechDiversity Accelerator, a program that has been supported by the Nielsen Foundation since 2018. This is an international program designed for early-stage tech companies that are 51% owned, controlled, and operated by a minority, woman, veteran, disabled or LGBTQ person or persons.

New in 2020, in addition to a public launch event celebrating the new cohort of startups, Wave will be hosting a national conversation around the topics of diversity and inclusion in tech entrepreneurship, and the important role that startup diversity programs can make in leveling the playing field for under-represented founders. Recent events have highlighted the lack of economic equity in our communities, making this conversation more important than ever. This virtual event, scheduled for June 23rd at 3pm EST, includes a panel discussion led by Keith Woods, Chief Diversity Officer for NPR (National Public Radio). Notable panelists Anna Mason, Partner, Rise of the Rest Seed Fund at Revolution LLC; LaKendria Robinson, Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee, Director Business Connect & Community Outreach; and Dr. Jose Morey MD, Forbes Technology Council, MIT Solve Mentor, Former Assoc. Chief Health Officer IBM, Space Technology Hall of Fame Admissions Committee, Hyperloop, IDEA Mentor/Judge. More information about this event can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-diverse-startups-to-build-thriving-ecosystems-tickets-107706442870> .

Wave's TechDiversity Accelerator is a 90-day program where chosen companies will work in a collaborative, non-competitive environment. Companies will have access to invaluable resources, such as a dedicated TechDiversity Cohort Director, one-on-one mentoring with notable tech founders, sales training, pitch coaching, and investor introductions. TechDiversity Accelerator companies will also participate in Wave's Demo Day at the conclusion of the program. This is a unique opportunity for founders to pitch their companies to an audience of hand-selected investors and business leaders.

"The Nielsen Foundation is excited to support the third year of the TechDiversity Accelerator," said Andrea Bertels, Executive Director of Grantmaking of the Nielsen Foundation. "COVID-19 has shown the inequalities across our economy, and this program can really make a difference. We're proud to be part of the solution -- providing greater opportunity for diverse entrepreneurs to build, grow, and expand their businesses and influence in the tech sector."

The Nielsen Foundation is a private foundation funded by Nielsen, a global measurement and data analytics company. The foundation seeks to bridge divides and enhance the use of data by the social sector to reduce discrimination, ease global hunger, and promote effective education. As one of the Nielsen Foundation's Signature Programs, the TechDiversity Accelerator aims to reduce discrimination and promote inclusion in the startup community.

"Tampa Bay Wave is thrilled to launch year three of our TechDiversity Accelerator program, powered by the Nielsen Foundation, here in Tampa Bay. Wave is determined to continue amplifying underrepresented startups," said Linda Olson, president and founder of Tampa Bay Wave. "We're eager to continue promoting the essentiality of tech startup diversity with the implementation of this inclusive program which will define their talents and propel their innovation."

Wave's accelerator program is the only Florida-based accelerator program accepted into GAN (gan.co), a network of the most respected accelerators around the world. The Wave accelerator launched in March 2013 and typically runs three cohorts per year. Among the fifteen new TechDiversity cohort members, six have women founders, three have African-American founders, and four have Asian/ Pacific Islander founders. Thirteen of the startups are based in thriving tech cities outside of Florida. The selected cohort also features some high-potential startups in HealthTech, FinTech, and artificial intelligence.

The 15 companies of the 2020 TechDiversity Accelerator include:

Allotrope Medical

Allotrope Medical is advancing surgical precision using safe electrical stimulation. This technology helps surgeons rapidly identify critical structures such as the ureter with seamless integration into existing surgical instruments and workflow.

CEO: Dr. Albert Huang MD

Location: Houston, TX

AutonomIQ Inc.

AutonomIQ is an AI-based automation platform that enables enterprises to self-generate, self-maintain, and self-heal all automation assets (e.g. intent, flows, scripts and data). Over 600,000 developers and ~35% of Fortune 1000 companies already use AutonomIQ for managing their automation assets.

CEO: Ram Shanmugam

Location: San Jose, CA

CareValet

CareValet is a digital healthcare platform that includes 24/7, 365 telemedicine access, in-network physician appointment setting and much more to simplify the consumer healthcare experience.

CEO: Joe Hodges

Location: Tampa, FL

Cicla

Cicla is a 3D printing filaments company and developer of novel composite materials for 3D printing, including recycled materials and those with antimicrobial properties. Cicla also produces PLA filaments, the most popular 3D material.

CEO: Rogers Escalup

Location: Concepcion, Chile

Eskuad

Eskuad has developed an application that improves productivity and creates reports from in-the-field teams.

CEO: Max Echeverria

Location: Santiago, Chile

Fêtefully

Fêtefully allows couples and event hosts to economically plan their weddings or events virtually, with a celebrity planner.

CEO: GiGi McDowell

Location: Dallas, TX

Free to Feed

Free to Feed is developing a test strip to detect allergens in breastmilk.

CEO: Dr. Trillitye Paullin PhD

Location: Boise, ID

Friendly Health

Friendly is the most accurate, deep learning platform for insurance paperwork digitization, analysis and payment recommendation.

CEO: Natalia Alexeeva

Location: San Francisco, CA

Home Lending Pal

Home Lending Pal is building the first AI-powered mortgage advisor that simulates underwriting with multiple lenders to determine mortgage approval odds and affordability impact on lifestyle. HLP merges online data from trusted sources to streamline pre-approval, reduce the need to scan paper documents, and simplify the home buying process with data-driven workflows, AI, and blockchain technology.

CEO: Bryan Young

Location: Miami, FL

It's By U

It's By U is ending the cycle of flower waste through farm-direct floral subscriptions.

CEO: Christine Strzalka

Location: New York, NY

Oracle Health

Oracle Health is developing an insertable cardiac device to monitor heart failure progression and prevent heart failure hospitalization, a \$21B problem. This device will monitor heart failure progression by analyzing trending changes in heart sounds and heart rhythms (ECG) with a cloud-based pattern recognition (machine learning) for three years.

CEO: Jaeson Bang

Location: Tampa, FL

Solo Funds

Solo Funds is a mobile and online lending platform that is a new model for peer-to-peer lending. It provides microloans of between \$50 and \$1,000. Borrowers set their loan amount, terms and repayment date.

CEO: Khary Cuffe

Location: Los Angeles, CA

TaxTaker

TaxTaker equips startups and their accountants with a more accessible way to claim the research & development credit savings they're entitled to take. With automated software calculating credits and preparing required documentation, startups can quickly capture their annual benefits to boost cash-flow and increase profits.

CEO: Ari Palmer

Location: Austin, TX

Vincere Health

Vincere Health is a telehealth platform that enables insurers to pay smokers as an incentive to quit.

CEO: Shalen De Silva
Location: Boston, MA

Winter Innovations, Inc.

Winter Innovations is a medical device startup dedicated to improving patient outcomes by developing simple orthopedic products for often overlooked aspects of surgery.

CEO: Lia Winter
Location: Memphis, TN

Not only does Wave's TechDiversity program continue to attract startups from across the U.S. and Latin America, many of these startups are also graduates of other highly-competitive programs such as Y Combinator, TechStars, Alchemist, Harvard Innovation Labs, Zeroto510, Johnson & Johnson J Labs, and TMCx. In addition, this year's cohort includes multiple companies with founders who have had prior exits, as well as founders who have experience working with or for Fortune 100 companies such as IBM, Oracle, Amazon, Visa, Cisco, and Deloitte. One founder is also a Tillman Scholar.

To learn more about the TechDiversity Accelerator Program, visit www.tampabaywave.org/accelerator/tech-diversity.

ABOUT TAMPA BAY WAVE:

Tampa Bay Wave, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing entrepreneurs with facilitated access to the resources, expertise, and capital they need to grow vibrant technology-based companies in Tampa Bay. Since March 2013, Tampa Bay Wave has supported more than 300 tech startups thanks to grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), plus support from its economic development partners Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. Tampa Bay Wave also receives support from corporate partners such as the Nielsen Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Florida Blue, Foley & Lardner, Sykes Enterprises, Tampa Bay Rays, Tampa Electric, Trenam Law, and Valley Bank. For more information, visit www.tampabaywave.org. Tampa Bay Wave is also a member of the GAN network of accelerators.

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