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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tampa Bay Wave Wins Grant from U.S. Small Business Administration to Increase Support for Women-Led Cybersecurity Startups

SBA Administrator Guzman Announces \$5.4 Million in Prizes to Nearly 100 Awardees to Support Inclusive Entrepreneurship in the Innovation Ecosystem.

The Biden-Harris Build Back Better Agenda Would Invest \$400 Million to Support Additional Growth Accelerator Fund and Small Business Innovation Research Catalyst Competitions



TAMPA, Fla. (October 1, 2021) – Tampa Bay Wave, Inc. (Wave) a nonprofit dedicated to driving opportunity and prosperity in Tampa Bay by supporting the growth of high-scale technology companies, is proud to announce they have been awarded \$50,000 as part of the nationwide Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAFC) held by the US Small



Business Administration (US SBA) aimed at spurring investment in underrepresented communities within the innovation economy at scale. This will mark the fourth time Tampa Bay Wave has awarded a grant from the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

Wave was one of 84 recipients across the U.S. and one of three in Florida. The winners come from 48 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, and have been awarded based on their proposals for innovative ideas that inclusively support entrepreneurs researching and developing STEM-related innovations.

According to the US SBA, these awards also highlight the outsized impact local winners can have at home with increased resources and the expanded role of small businesses as hubs for job creation and economic growth in our country.

Wave's Growth Accelerator Fund project will provide specialized accelerator programming exclusively for women-led cybersecurity startups during Wave's upcoming 2022 CyberTech|X Accelerator program. This program will follow Wave's recipe of success used in their 2021 CyberTech|X Accelerator program, as well as their other nationally-recognized tech business accelerator programs, such as the TechDiversity Accelerator, powered by the Nielsen Foundation, and the TechWomen Rising Accelerator, powered by JPMorgan Chase.

"I am proud to announce the winners of the 2021 Growth Accelerator Fund Competition and SBIR Catalyst prize competition. This year's cohort of winners emphasizes our commitment to equity. Our awardees have innovative plans to support underserved entrepreneurs, including women, people of color, and individuals from underrepresented geographic areas," said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. "The Growth Accelerator prize funds will ensure a wide range of startups and innovators working on cutting edge STEM/R&D ideas have access to technical support and capital. The success of the first-ever SBIR Catalyst track will ensure newly piloted regional collaboratives represent the diverse potential of the U.S. innovation ecosystem. And President Biden's Build Back Better agenda would enable us to ramp up this program even more, helping to reach thousands of innovators from underrepresented communities and geographic areas."

Linda Olson, Tampa Bay Wave CEO, added, "The Growth Accelerator award provides us with a unique opportunity to share the resources and expertise that our team has developed over the years with entrepreneurs who otherwise would not have access to these resources. We are grateful to the SBA to be a part of the nationwide network of support organizations who are critical in providing resources to underrepresented entrepreneurs throughout the U.S."



For a full list of winners, please visit www.sbir.gov/accelerators.

Tampa Bay Wave is the only Florida-based organization accepted into [GAN](http://gan.co) (gan.co), a network of the most respected business accelerators around the world. Thanks to the generous support of corporate sponsors and granting organizations, selected cohort companies can participate in Wave's accelerator programs at no cost, and Wave takes zero equity. To date, Wave has run 25 individual accelerator cohorts since 2013.

Earlier in 2021, Tampa Bay Wave launched its first cybersecurity-focused accelerator program, the CyberTech|X Accelerator. Formed with the vision of establishing Tampa Bay's reputation as a nationally-recognized hub for cybersecurity talent and innovation, this new cybersecurity program was created with help from a major grant from the Bellini Better World Foundation. Other key funding partners include A-LIGN, KnowBe4 and EY; plus strategic partners: Aditum, Bank of America, Cyber Florida, Jabil, Raymond James, SYKES Enterprises and University of South Florida's Muma College of Business. The 2021 CyberTech|X Accelerator cohort included fifteen promising cybersecurity technology companies from across the United States and United Kingdom.

As of October 1, 2021, Wave is now accepting applications for the 2022 CyberTech|X Accelerator program. At least 5-7 seats in this cohort will be reserved exclusively for women-led cybersecurity startups. Applications are due by November 30, 2021, and the cohort will launch the week of January 17, 2022.

For more information about 2022 CyberTech|X Accelerator program, including the link to the online application form, please visit: tampabaywave.org/cybertech.

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 and create high wage tech jobs, thus fostering an innovation-based economy for the region. Since March 2013, Tampa Bay Wave has supported nearly 400 tech startups in Tampa Bay 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 and foundations such as A-lign, Bellini Better World, Bank of America, Cherry Bekaert, EY, Florida Blue, Florida Funders, Frontier Communications, Hancock Whitney Bank, JPMorgan Chase, KnowBe4, MacDonald Ventures, Sykes Enterprises, Tampa Electric, Tampa



Bay Rays/Rowdies Foundation, The Nielsen Foundation, Truist Foundation, and Valley Bank.
For more information, visit www.tampabaywave.org.