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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

262 Founder Pitch Announces 13 Finalists Advancing to Southeast Wisconsin Competition

KENOSHA, WI — (October 8, 2026) The Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood (KIN), together with regional partners, is proud to announce the 13 startup finalists selected to compete in the 262 Founder Pitch on November 10, 2026, at the Kenosha Innovation Center (KIC). The finalists represent promising entrepreneurs from across Southeast Wisconsin and will take the stage to showcase their companies, connect with regional leaders, and compete within three categories designed to highlight innovation and community impact.

The 262 Founder Pitch is a collaborative regional effort led by economic development and higher-education partners across Southeast Wisconsin to identify, elevate, and support founders building the next generation of Wisconsin companies.

FINALISTS BY CATEGORY

“Heal Better” - Biohealth

- Vitax — Chase Crippen
- VouchPro.io — Anthony Chiappetta
- Caregiver Compass — Rachel Gage

“Build Smarter” - Intelligent Manufacturing

- Bikes Unhinged, LLC — John Kapps
- True Echo VR — Mitchell Schweda
- Enetrion Inc. — Abe Benelmadjat

“Strengthen Community” - Local Impact

- Wheemz Tech and Smart Home — Rachaad Howard
- Empower One Impact Many Financial Coaching — Lirhonda Price

- Urbane Aromatics — Drew Goetz
- Shepherd Traffic — Joel Roberts
- Global Center for Trauma Education & Training — Andréa Michel
- Voyager AI, Inc. — Aaron Colcord
- Yaya's Greek Almond Dip — Michael Anagnos

The finalists will pitch live on November 10 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at the Kenosha Innovation Center. The event is free with registration required and gives the community an opportunity to hear directly from founders developing new solutions in biohealth, intelligent manufacturing, and local impact.

QUOTE FROM KIN:

Kelly Armstrong, President of the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood (KIN), said: “Great companies start with bold ideas, determined founders, and an ecosystem that believes in their potential. The 262 Founder Pitch is about bringing Southeast Wisconsin together to elevate entrepreneurs, connect them to opportunities, and build the next generation of companies right here in our region. These 13 finalists represent the talent and innovation driving our economy forward. At KIN, we’re not just celebrating what’s next. We’re helping build it.”

KIN extends its sincere thanks to the sponsors and partners whose support makes the 262 Founder Pitch possible: Chase, Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA), Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC), Walworth County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. (WCEDA), Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood, Tech-Prize, UW-Parkside, Gateway Technical College, Carthage College, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

The 262 Founder Pitch is part of a broader regional strategy to strengthen a connected, collaborative innovation ecosystem and create pathways for entrepreneurs to access the relationships, resources, and visibility needed to grow in Southeast Wisconsin.

For full event details and registration, visit: innovateKIN.org/262founder

About the Kenosha Innovation Center (KIC)

The Kenosha Innovation Center is a flagship facility within the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood focused on entrepreneurship, innovation, and community-driven economic development. The Center provides founders with workspace, mentorship, programming, and pathways to growth supporting the next generation of startups in the region.

About the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood

The Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood, Inc., is a non-profit organization led by a volunteer board of directors composed of local and regional leaders dedicated to fostering economic recovery, improving economic sustainability and resiliency, and ensuring equitable community access to prosperity through the development of the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood (KIN).

The KIN is the revitalization and transformation of 107 acres of vacant land in the heart of Kenosha as a collaborative, mixed-use project that is bringing the community together to define and deliver a regional destination with sustainable, innovation-focused office, medical, educational, commercial, and residential space that meets the unique needs of neighbors, the broader Kenosha community, visitors, and end-users. Learn more about the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood at www.innovatekin.org.