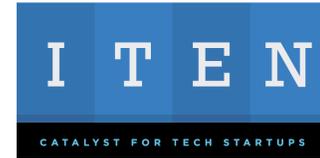




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VISION 2015: Explore Opportunities in Bioscience, IT and Advanced Manufacturing

First regional symposium focused on entrepreneurial, intrapreneurial and acquisition opportunities

ST. LOUIS – April 2, 2015 –Through the Bioscience & Entrepreneurial Inclusion Initiative, BioSTL along with ITEN and St. Louis Makes announce **VISION 2015**, a one-day event to **educate and engage women, minorities, veterans, immigrants and other interested individuals** on career and entrepreneurial opportunities in bioscience, IT and advanced manufacturing.

VISION 2015, “Growing Industries, New Opportunities, Find Your Fit” will be held Friday, June 12, 2015 at Harris-Stowe State University. The event will feature diverse entrepreneurs, professionals, entrepreneurial resource support organizations start-up organizations and corporations in a multi-track format along with plenary and keynote speakers highlighting the growing bioscience, information technology and advanced manufacturing industries and the new opportunities being created. Other features of the event include:

- **Innovation Showcase** - highlights the innovations of new entrepreneurs and innovators within existing corporations
- **Community Connections Marketplace** - where attendees can meet potential funders, higher education leaders, mentor and training resources, facilities support partners and career support groups
- **The Dolphin Tank®** – where experienced and aspiring entrepreneurs can deliver a two-minute elevator pitch about their idea, product, challenge or business and receive thoughtful questions, constructive feedback, a new approach to thinking about the problem, or a connection. Hosted by Springboard Enterprises, a resource hub of entrepreneurs, investors, and advisors that help women-led technology and life science companies reach their next milestone. Over 15 years they have supported 550+ women leaders globally with access to funding, advisors, partnerships, and customers for growth and product development.

“**VISION 2015** is the first event of its kind in our region to highlight the entrepreneurial, intrapreneurial, and acquisition opportunities at the intersection of these growing industries,” explained Dr. Cheryl Watkins-Moore, director of bioscience & entrepreneurial inclusion for BioSTL. “Through this event we are connecting women, minorities, veterans, immigrants and other interested individuals to resources and opportunities in these growing industries to help them **find their fit.**”

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“Bridging the diversity gap in the St. Louis startup ecosystem is not something one single organization can tackle alone,” said Jim Brasunas, executive director of ITEN. “ITEN is delighted to collaborate with BioSTL and St. Louis Makes to promote the development of an innovative and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.”

With more than 300 professionals expected, space will be limited for this first-time event. Registration will open in mid-April. Find out more at www.visionstlouis.com

About BioSTL

BioSTL advances St. Louis’ prosperity by cultivating a thriving bioscience sector. BioSTL builds regional capacity, nurtures a collaborative environment, and focuses community leadership and resources to capitalize on the unique convergence of St. Louis’ corporate, university, and entrepreneurial strengths in medical and plant bioscience. Please visit www.biostl.org for additional information. Follow BioSTL on twitter [@BioSTL](https://twitter.com/BioSTL).

About ITEN

ITEN (www.itenstl.org) provides a foundational system for entrepreneurs to work together towards building strong startups and a vibrant tech ecosystem. ITEN provides unique programs, events and access to resources that accelerate tech venture success. Designed by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs, requiring neither payment nor equity, ITEN is a unique community asset and a proven route to venture success. Follow ITEN on Twitter at www.twitter.com/itenstl and Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ITENSTLOUIS>.

About St. Louis Makes

St. Louis Makes helps manufactured products businesses grow their sales. We are a private nonprofit corporation in public service to the manufacturing industry.

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