



# 2024 Story

A community's strength lies in the stories it shares. We are proud to share the inspiring entrepreneurial journey of the North State.



“ChicoSTART is virtually the reason why HatchTracker was able to transform from a concept into a thriving business. ChicoSTART had the connections we needed to get the business started.”

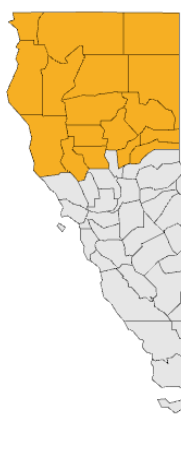


# Empowering Entrepreneurship



Eva Shepherd-Nicoll  
*Executive Director*

*As you read our 2024 story, you will find our key accomplishments and entrepreneur success stories reflect another year of growth and impact!*



**ChicoSTART**  
North State Accelerate  
CA IHub Designee  
Service Map



**IHUB<sup>2</sup>**  
ACCELERATING DIVERSITY  
In California's Science and Tech Based Economy

*We support and enrich Northern California's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and provide startups with the resources they need to succeed.*



## 2024 = GROWTH AND IMPACT

ChicoSTART's mission is to **empower entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses throughout Northern California** by fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem and providing the resources, training, and the shared workspace space they need to succeed. We're committed to breaking down barriers to access and ensuring entrepreneurship is within reach for everyone.

In 2024, **ChicoSTART hosted events and workshops supporting over 750 attendees.** These programs provided impactful entrepreneurial training tools, direct advising and connections to additional access to resources.

We aren't accelerating growth and impact alone! ChicoSTART is extremely appreciative of all of our partners, members, and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), Economic Development Administration (EDA), and Blue Tech Valley (BTV) who continue to support our efforts to empower entrepreneurship not only in our neck of the woods, but to all of our entrepreneurial friends in the Far North.

ChicoSTART is here to help you START, GROW and THRIVE in 2025! How can we help?

*Cheers,*

Eva Shepherd-Nicoll



*Through the Technical Assistance Program at ChicoSTART, we were provided expert guidance to enhance our brand visibility and effectively communicate our goals to major stakeholders in these counties and expansion with exposure to venture capitalists.*

*—Tzvi Weber, Purpurātus*





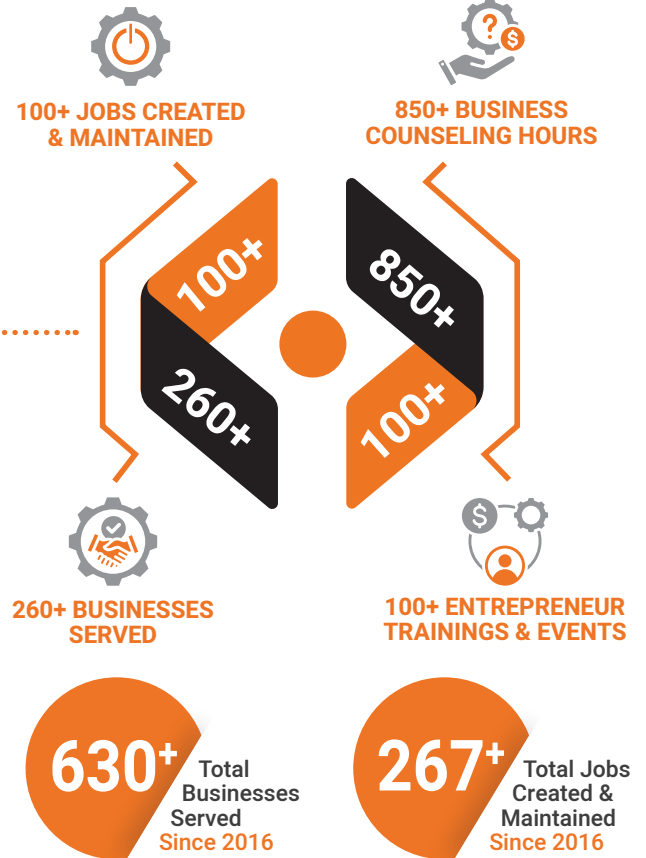
# 2024 Key Accomplishments

## ChicoSTART as a California Accelerated Inclusive Innovation Hub.

As an CA Accelerated Inclusive Innovation Hub designee and Technical Assistance Provider (TAP), ChicoSTART *supports rural and underserved entrepreneurs by providing critical resources, mentorship, and programs* to over 20+ counties.

In 2024 ChicoSTART increased our Accelerated by Partner Program to 7 partners. This program serves as a platform where entrepreneurs can access ChicoSTART assistance and access to tools directly through their county partner.

ChicoSTART made headway in 2024 by serving businesses in the NorCal region.



## ChicoSTART Success Stories



**RED LINE**  
SAFETY

**RED LINE SAFETY**  
CEO, SCOTT HOLMAN

Dedicating their efforts to creating life-saving solutions for the first responder community.



**hexas**

**HEXAS BIOMASS INC.**  
FOUNDER & CEO,  
WENDY OWENS

A nature-based solutions company focused on the production of regenerative, plant-based raw materials.



**LOPES FAMILY FARM**  
FOUNDERS, BRUCE &  
CHRISTOPHER LOPES

Exploring new rice farming methods in order to adapt to a changing climate, LFF adopted an integrated method in 2022 known as "Rice and Duck Farming."



**CROWN H CATTLE**  
COMPANY

OWNER, REGINA HANNA  
Raises and sells Belted Galloway Beef grown naturally on the family ranch, humanely processed and dry-aged locally, including an online retail store.

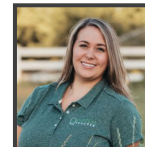


**INDIAN VALLEY**  
INNOVATION HUB

**INDIAN VALLEY**  
INNOVATION HUB

DIRECTOR,  
LARA WHEELER

IVIH was born in the wake of the Dixie Fire to create and build a thriving economy by fostering sustainable businesses through innovative partner-supported programs.



**HATCH**  
TRACKER

**HATCHTRACKER**  
FOUNDERS, JESSICA  
HENMAN

& KRISTIN MILLION  
Premier gamebird inventory & client management software.



**PURPURATUS**  
FOUNDER & CEO,  
TZVI WEBER

Creating a sustainable, profit-driven solution that could simultaneously restore kelp ecosystems and provide valuable, marketable products from the invasive species of sea urchin shell.



# 2024 ChicoSTART Events & Trainings

100+

Total Events  
& Programs

750+

Total  
Attendees  
Supported



**GrowTECH  
FEST 2024**  
November-2024

**300+**  
Attendees



**Startup Pitch  
Challenge**  
September-2024

**50**  
Attendees



**IHUB<sup>2</sup>**  
ACCELERATING DIVERSITY  
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**Accelerated Workshop Series**  
Spring & Fall-2024

**95+**  
Attendees



**ChicoSTART &  
GrowTECH Hangs**

**100+**  
Attendees



**Strategy &  
Innovative  
Sessions**  
April-2024

**100+**  
Attendees



**1 Million Cups  
Chico**

**75+**  
Attendees



**Global Entrepreneurship Week**  
November-2024

**50+**  
Attendees

## 2025 Preview Save the Date

[chicostart.com/events](http://chicostart.com/events)

- **ChicoSTART Hangs**  
Quarterly
- **1 Million Cups**  
Monthly
- **Accelerate by Partner Workshops**  
Spring & Fall, 2025
- **Startup Pitch Workshop & Challenge**  
April & September, 2025
- **6th Annual GrowTECH FEST**  
November, 2025
- **Global Entrepreneurship Week**  
November 17-23, 2025

How can we help you **START, GROW** and **THRIVE**?





# GrowTECH Initiative

## GrowTECH INITIATIVE: Celebrating and Elevating the Entrepreneurial Spirit of the North State

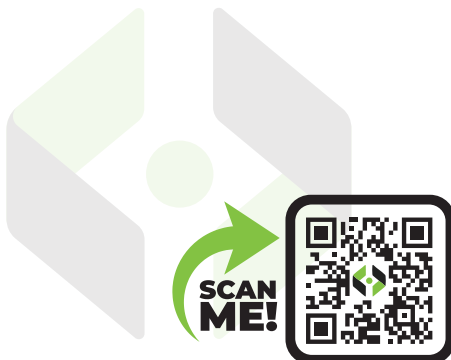
The Grow TECH Initiative is intended to showcase our region as a thriving tech and startup community, grow regional talent and recruitment strategies and build and strengthen the North State entrepreneurial ecosystem.



“

*The ChicoSTART team did an outstanding job organizing an event that not only showcased innovation, but also fostered meaningful connections among attendees. GrowTECH FEST highlighted the incredible potential in our region, and I look forward to seeing how this community continues to thrive and grow.*

—Dan Chapin, Left Coast Marketing



Celebrating + Elevating the Entrepreneurial Spirit in the North State



## GROWTECH FEST

GrowTECH FEST is the **ONLY Entrepreneurial Conference North of Sacramento**, offering a diverse lineup of speakers, investors, startup stories challenge, and industry expert sessions.

Entrepreneurs, startups, small businesses, and students gain essential tools, inspiration and connections to navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business, hearing firsthand from successful entrepreneurs in our region.



## STRATEGIC & INNOVATIVE WORKSHOP SERIES



This annual event is for Chico and North State startups, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. Sessions are focused on successful business growth, leadership, and innovation.

In 2025, ChicoSTART will include a Startup Pitch Workshop followed by a Startup Pitch Challenge.



November 2025 SAVE the DATE!

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COORDINATOR +  
SPECIAL PROJECTS
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ANALYST

# Thank You Partners

ACCELERATED



THRIVE



START

LAUNCH



## COMMUNITY & IHUB PARTNERS



How can we help you  
**START, GROW and THRIVE?**



Scan to get  
in touch!

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