

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ChicoSTART + GrowTECH
July 1, 2026



Celebrating + Elevating the Entrepreneurial Spirit in the North State

GROWTECH FEST IS BACK OCTOBER 8-9, 2026!
LAUNCH SALE TICKETS ARE NOW LIVE!

July 1, 2026 - Chico, CA: ChicoSTART, the North State's designated Accelerate California Inclusive Innovation Hub (IHub), has officially announced that ticket sales for its annual event, [GrowTECH FEST 2026](#), has launched! The multi-day event will take place October 8th and 9th at Sierra Nevada Big Room and Downtown Chico.

For a limited time, ChicoSTART is offering a LAUNCH SALE, giving attendees access to the full two-day conference for just \$100!

Now in its 7th year, GrowTECH FEST brings together Northern California's founders, investors, experts, innovators, and students to ignite fresh ideas, connect with other creators, and increase entrepreneurial empowerment and impact across the region. The GTF program will be intentionally designed to address breaking down entrepreneurial barriers, giving rural startups, entrepreneurs and small business owners the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurial and small business resources, funding options, and networks to **START, GROW AND THRIVE!**

"GrowTECH FEST is far more than an event—it's about telling the story of our **entrepreneurial ecosystem**, bringing attendees together to connect, learn, and grow!" said Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of ChicoSTART. "We are entirely focused on giving regional entrepreneurs the hands-on tools, expert capital networks, and support they need to scale right here in Northern California. We also want to encourage attendees to stay and experience what this area has to offer by exploring and getting an inside tour of local startups who have started here. **We can't wait to celebrate our region!**"

What Attendees Will Experience This Year:

- **Over 250 +** connections with North State community of founders, investors, and innovators
- A room full of people who want to **celebrate entrepreneurship in the North State**
- **Multiple hands-on learning** workshops, panel discussions and valuable business tools
- [NEXTGEN](#) 18+ Lightning Round + Startup Pitch Showcase (\$\$\$) + Founders Field Trip

GTF Tickets and Startup Pitch Showcase Information:

The special \$100 Launch Sale tickets will be available starting **Wednesday, July 1st**, for a limited time before moving to general admission pricing on August 1st.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to apply for the Startup Pitch Showcase, visit [GROWTECH FEST 2026](https://growtechfest2026.com) or contact info@chicostart.com.

2026 GTF Supported By: Tri Counties Bank, Carlsen Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Sacramento State, Mechanics Bank and Accelerate California.

For all media inquiries, please contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart at eva@chicostart.com.

About [ChicoSTART](#): ChicoSTART supports and enriches Northern California's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by providing small business, entrepreneurs and startups the resources they need to succeed. Our platform includes shared office amenities, mentoring, workshops, internships, tech talks, student to business projects, entrepreneurial events, satellite office programs, and anything else that helps our core mission of helping startups succeed. As a CA Accelerated iHub representing 20+ counties in the North State, the ChicoSTART ecosystem includes, but is not limited to, investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors.

About [GrowTECH](#): GrowTECH is an industry lead partnership between tech and entrepreneur industry leaders and supporting community organizations modeled after the Next Gen Sector Partnerships. *Together we grow, support, and connect the thriving tech and entrepreneurial hub in Chico and Northern California.*

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