



Agenda

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

April 2, 2024

HOSTED BY THE ARKANSAS SMALL BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
IN COOPERATION WITH ARKANSAS APEX ACCELERATOR

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- 7 a.m.** **Doors Open for Registration and Networking** *Lobby*
- 8 a.m.** **Welcome and Introductions** *Auditorium*
Laura Fine, State Director, Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center
Christina Drale, Ph.D., Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Adriene F. Brown, Arkansas District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration
- 8 a.m.-noon** **One-on-One Meetings** *Room 3*
- 8:15 a.m.** **America's Seed Fund – SBIR/STTR Overview** *Auditorium*
Erick Page-Littleford, Acting Director, Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Division,
Office of Investment and Innovation, U.S. Small Business Administration
Nancy Kamei, SBIR Program Development Specialist, Small Business Innovation Research and Technology
Transfer Division, Office of Investment and Innovation, U.S. Small Business Administration
- 8:48 a.m.** **Reverse Pitches: 4-Minute Agency Elevator Pitches** *Auditorium*
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Institute of Standards (NIST)
Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Department of Defense, Navy
Department of Energy (DOE)
National Science Foundation (NSF)
Department of Defense, AFWERX
Defense Health Agency (DHA)
Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (HHS/NIH)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Department of Defense, NAVSEA
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
I-Corps
Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC)

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9:48 a.m. Matching Your Project to an Agency Auditorium

Moderator: Nancy Kamei, SBA

Panelists: AFWERX, DOE, USDA, and NIST Program Managers

Have you wondered how to get focused on a few SBIR agencies? America's Seed Fund can seem a bit overwhelming at first, which is why the session is of value! Catch a general overview of the SBIR/STTR programs as experts answer questions about how to get started, what types of companies they are looking for, agency prerequisites, the nuances between granting and contracting agencies, and more!

10:30 a.m. Inside the Head of an Evaluator Auditorium

Moderator: Erick Page-Littleford, SBA

Panelists: Navy, NOAA, DHA, and AFWERX Program Managers

Curious about what evaluators are looking for when reviewing submissions? Program managers share common and avoidable mistakes made by applicants. Enjoy candid insight for preparing more competitive proposals. The panel will also touch on items required by the SBIR Policy Directive to be reviewed at any SBIR program.

11:10 a.m. Finding Help and Support Auditorium

Panelists: Molly Wasko, I-Corps; Reynaldo Vasquez, USPTO; Karen Bergh, ASBTDC; Adriene F. Brown, SBA

Gain insights on the resources available to you from the SBA at sbir.gov, organizations within Arkansas that can guide you along your journey, and additional resources connected to our nation's innovation ecosystem. Leave with concrete next steps on how to get started.

12 p.m. Arkansas Resources for SBIR/STTR Proposals Auditorium

Melanie Berman, Arkansas APEX Accelerator

Karen Bergh, ASBTDC

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break and Networking, Boxed Lunch Provided Room 1

1:15 p.m. Innovator Insights: Arkansas Success Stories Auditorium

Moderator: Noah Asher, Vascugenix

Nhiem Cao, Lapovations

Matt Francis, Ph.D., Ozark Integrated Circuits

Elizabeth Hood, Ph.D., GreenLab

Darren Sommer, D.O., Innovator Health

Learn from founders of successful tech-based startups. Hear their thoughts on management and growth strategies, commercialization and funding opportunities, startup mistakes and how to avoid them, key skills for entrepreneurial success, and more.

2:30 p.m. Adjournment