

2nd- Annual



STARTUP

LAUNCHPAD

AGENDA

April 17th, 2026

8:00 AM

Networking Breakfast and Check-In

8:45 AM

Opening Remarks

9:00 AM

Inside Salt Lake's Startup Ecosystem

Erin Mendenhal

Mayor, Salt Lake City

Troy D'Ambrosio

VP for Innovation, University of Utah

Catherine Bennett

Executive Editor, Utah Business

9:30 AM

The Early Days of Recursion

Chris Gibson

Founder, Recursion

10:00 AM

Networking Break

10:30 AM

Building AI-Enabled Companies

Warren Pettine

Co-founder & CEO, MTN AI

Carmen Kivisild

Co-founder & CEO, Elnora AI

Penny Atkins

One-U Responsible Artificial Intelligence Initiative

11:00 AM

Fundraising Advice for Founders

Nick Efstratis

Partner, Epic/UofU Ventures

Noah Nasser

CEO, datma

Chandana Haque

Executive Director, Altitude Lab

11:30 AM

Networking Lunch & Round Table Discussions

12:30PM

Researcher to Founder Journey

Doman Innovation Studio

1:15 PM

Break

1:30 PM

IP & Legal Essentials

Ballard Spar

2:15 PM

Navigating SBIR/STTR and Other Funding Options

Nucleus Grow

3:00 PM

Closing Remarks

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