

Tech 2020 hosts Innovation Imperative conference

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The 15th annual Innovation Imperative conference will be held at the Knoxville Convention Center Oct. 20-22, and it will welcome three nationally known speakers -- plus one of Oak Ridge's favorite sons -- to discuss innovation, business tactics, and access to capital in today's emerging economy.

Event organizers say this year's conference will bring together national experts, institutional and "angel" investors, regional business leaders, entrepreneurs, scholars and elected officials to share their experiences and expertise.

Keynote speakers include Rich Karlgaard, publisher of Forbes Magazine; Bo Burlingham, editor-at-large for Inc. Magazine; and Chris Low, chief economist for First Tennessee Financial.

"There are few regions in our country that can boast the vast resources we have in the Innovation Valley," Mike Cuddy, president and CEO of Technology 2020, stated in a Sept. 21 news release.

A technology-based economic development corporation located in Oak Ridge, Tech 2020 is hosting the conference.

"This event is designed to celebrate and build upon the success of our area's numerous market-leading companies and to encourage and enable other successes to follow," Cuddy said.

The conference features:

- Practical advice on private company capitalization and investment opportunities for both early and later-stage companies;
- Economic trends showing business and professional movement "from the cities to the suburbs"; and
- Practical education on business communications, human capital, and what it takes to succeed and grow.

Attendees will also learn about how Tennessee is stimulating both innovation and rapid-growth companies through pension plan investments, tax credits, and more.

State Sen. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, is among the scheduled speakers, organizers recently told The Oak Ridger.

For more information about the Innovation Imperative conference or to register, visit www.tech2020.org or call (865) 220-2020.

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