

A woman in a dark blazer is standing and presenting to a group of people seated around a long wooden conference table. The room has large windows and a modern interior.

FlywheelTM Foundation 2025 Impacts

A wide-angle view of a modern open-plan office space. The ceiling features exposed wooden beams and numerous small, cylindrical pendant lights. People are working at long wooden desks. Large windows on the right side offer a view of the outdoors.

SBC@
INTERWORKS
MOUNT AIRY, NC

ACCELERATING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WITH SUPPORTIVE INNOVATION COMMUNITIES



Mission

To support impact-driven entrepreneurship through ecosystem development, education, and impact investment, leveraging Flywheel's infrastructure.



Vision

We envision a world where entrepreneurship is accessible to anyone and the resources needed are readily available.



Values

Healthy communities through economic opportunity. Diversity of thought and experience. Action and progress. Catalyze connections in ecosystems. Create access to all entrepreneurial journeys.

About the Flywheel Foundation

The Flywheel Foundation promotes healthy entrepreneurship ecosystems through events, accessible courses, and investment. We accelerate home-grown economic development with diverse pathways for inception-stage and growth-stage startups by partnering with an expanding network of non-profits, economic development organizations, corporations, and investors. We are committed to working with organizations who put entrepreneurs first, knowing that a resilient and inclusive economy benefits all.

Over a decade of operation, we have supported hundreds of founders as they work towards identifying problems in the market and creating unique, valuable solutions. Our network of mentors works hard to share their own experiences starting companies while helping founders become better at what they do – changing the world around them.

The Flywheel Foundation serves as connective tissue both within and across regional entrepreneurship ecosystems. Our role is to develop new programs that fill gaps in developmental support and capital access not currently addressed by support organizations within a region. We also connect regions, sharing expertise and best practices as Flywheel builds its network of innovation centers in the Southeastern United States.

Placemaking for Entrepreneurship

The Flywheel Foundation offers communities of all sizes the experience and proven playbook for developing innovation center projects, from feasibility studies through design and operational implementation. We know how to act on economic development through placemaking for entrepreneurship and can assist with a vertically integrated team of planners, architects, designers, and operators. Responding to frequent inbound requests for assistance, we have organized our à la carte services into five primary service bundles:

- Strategy Development for Ecosystem Building
- Coworking Innovation Center Design and Development
- Operational Playbook for Implementation
- Entrepreneurial Support Development - Programs, Events, and Capital Access
- Reciprocal Membership Throughout the Flywheel Affiliate Network

About Flywheel Innovation Communities

The Flywheel Foundation executes its mission through a network of purpose-driven innovation communities in the Southeast. Flywheel provides an affordable place and community infrastructure where startups and entrepreneurs flourish.

Our network of spaces continues to grow through the development of flagship locations as well as through the Affiliate Location program.

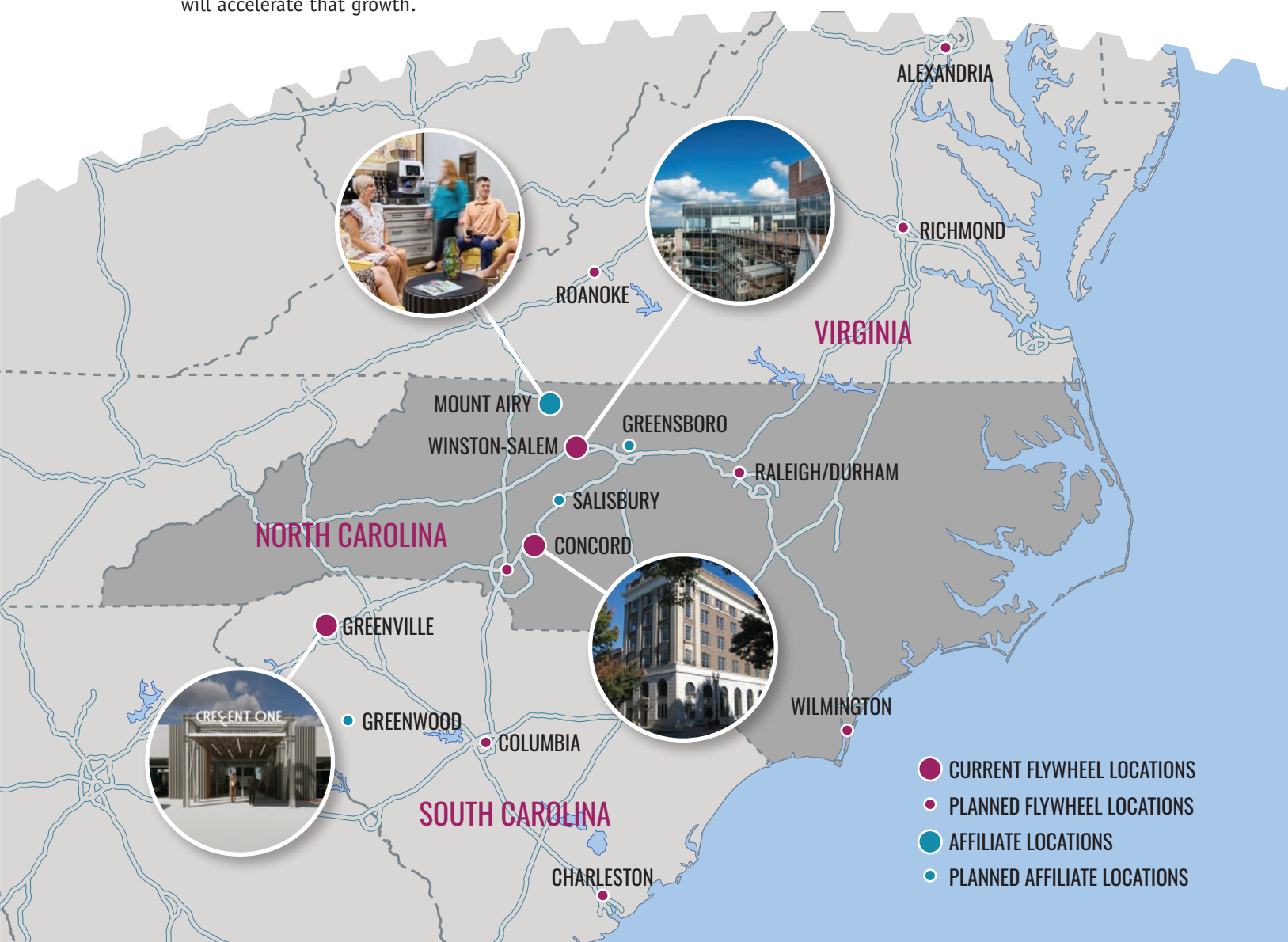
We currently operate flagship locations in the Triad Region of North Carolina served out of Winston-Salem, Greater Charlotte/Cabarrus County served out of Concord, NC, and Upstate SC out of the Crescent Startup Community in Greenville, SC. Future planned locations are identified on the map.

Our network will continue growing throughout the Southeast in mid-size and smaller cities peripheral to major markets with the right ingredients and community support for early-stage entrepreneurs. The Affiliate Location services offered by the Foundation will accelerate that growth.

The Flywheel Foundation enables an active coworking innovation model to build member communities and stimulate entrepreneurship, which is important to our mission. Our model helps college and university entrepreneurship programs engage with our co-located companies and programs. We actively assemble Entrepreneurship Service Organizations (ESOs) as resident program partners under one roof to efficiently deliver resources and capital.

We are passionate about building a purpose-driven community among our members at Flywheel. Our coworking culture helps our members develop personally and professionally. We are actively involved in providing affordable, flexible space and amenities. Most importantly, we help members accelerate their success through curated social and professional development events.

That's our purpose – to make a difference for the entrepreneurs we serve, to help them succeed, and to create an environment where new ideas flourish, get market traction, find customers, and become new projects and businesses.



Supporting Ecosystems

We recognize that a healthy startup ecosystem has multiple program partners who serve specific groups and provide mentorship and capital access for main street as well as scalable startups. We collaborate to eliminate gaps, reduce risk, and optimize chances for success with a continuum of developmental resources and funding from inception to growth stage.

As Flywheel enters new markets, we work to provide connective tissue by helping to develop Entrepreneurship Leadership Councils, led by entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurship Service Organization (ESO) partners.



Upstate South Carolina



Triad North Carolina



Greater Charlotte/Cabarrus

Health Equity Innovation Challenge

In 2022, Atrium Health – Greater Charlotte North Area committed title sponsor funding to enable a 3-year accelerator and incubation program focused on Health Equity. Additional funding for grants and program support came from Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Cabarrus County, the Cabarrus Economic Development Corporation, the City of Kannapolis, and the Flywheel Foundation.



Now in its third year, this Sponsored Innovation Challenge is a business idea competition seeking solutions to problems that Atrium Health deeply cares about as the sponsoring institution. The Challenge seeks the submission of scalable and investable solutions to problems that lead to or create significant healthcare outcome disparities.

The Challenge invites applications for social and technological innovations that can be applied and commercialized with demonstrated potential for social and economic impact on the following leading indicator priorities and Drivers of Health (DOH):

- Access: Improve access for colorectal screening, A1c control, blood pressure, behavioral health, and reduce readmissions
- Quality and Outcomes: Eliminate disparities in mortality rates, mental health, and maternal and child health
- Acute Social Needs: Support systems, community engagement, structural discrimination
- Drivers of Health: Economic stability and upward mobility; food security and access to healthy foods; access to affordable housing and commercial districts; affordable transportation; affordable child care, education access, and quality

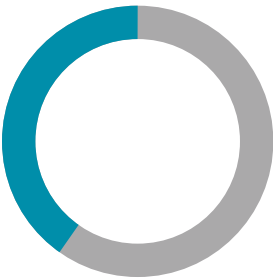
The targeted population is vulnerable communities, specifically African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American individuals, and those living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The first cohort of five companies has been selected, and the accelerator program is now underway. These companies will be prominently featured at this year's ConvergeSouth conference.

healthequityinnovationchallenge.com

Overall Impacts

Through these programs, the Foundation has stimulated a pipeline flow of **early-stage teams and companies numbering over 300 annually, and supported the creation, launch and nurturing of more than 100 companies in 2025**. Our overall audience reach, membership, and services have grown dramatically as we refine our service offerings and expand our geographic reach:

Impacts (Cumulative)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Markets Served	6	7	9	10	10	11
Students Enrolled in Curriculum	260	425	752	887	952	1109
Core Innovation Space Membership	345	515	721	785	864	1035
Startups Coached	120	240	520	710	805	996
New Ventures Companies Created	23	23	28	29	30	31
Financing Secured	\$16MM	\$16.2MM	\$27MM	\$28.2MM	29.4MM	36.5MM
Jobs Created	185	220	308	348	485	532
Event Attendance	2,200	2,200	4,500	5,700	6,900	8,300
Audience	7,500	8,500	9,750	14,000	16,325	18,291



Gender

- 60% Male
- 40% Female



Job Profile

- 50% Startup Businesses
- 20% Solopreneurs
- 20% Investors
- 10% General Community



Age

- 20% 18-24
- 50% 25-34
- 10% 35-43
- 20% 44+



Industry

- 30% Web Development
- 20% Artificial Intelligence
- 20% SaaS
- 10% Mobile
- 5% AR/VR
- 5% IoT
- 5% Blockchain
- 5% Regional Industries

Starting and Growing

New Ventures Accelerators

One cycle per year per accelerator
Average 150 applicants per accelerator
5-8 Companies per Cohort

The Flywheel Foundation administers the New Ventures program, forming investment clubs in the regions served that promote the intersection of emerging technology with regional market strengths. Companies accepted into the program receive an average \$50,000 equity investment and enter a 12-week accelerator tailored to their needs with mentors and subject matter experts.

newventuresnc.com



Retail Lab

Average 30 applicants per cycle
Offered in the Spring and Fall as a 6-week bootcamp

The Retail Lab program is designed to help early stage and pre-launch retail business owners through a six-week boot camp focusing on Business Basics, Strategy, Branding and Marketing, E-commerce, Point-of-Sale and Inventory, and Real Estate/Licensing. The Foundation partners with the Community College Small Business Center for instructors and content.



Participants who graduate from the program have an opportunity to pitch for grant funding through the Flywheel Foundation, and also receive a 3-month Flywheel Membership that includes space use at Flywheel, amenities, and member benefits. Ongoing support is offered through the Venture Mentoring Services program and the Flywheel Mentor Deck program.

cabarruscenter.com/retail-lab

FutureX Traction Program

Rolling Enrollment
20 Companies Per Year

The mission of the **FutureX Traction Program** is to provide an extended runway of infrastructure and programmatic support to early-stage startups and graduates of Upstate accelerator programs that have achieved product-market fit and initial revenue. The program offers a **2-year residency with wraparound resources in a community of founders** at the Flywheel Greenville, SC, location.

The innovative aspects of the FutureX program involve the long-term residency in a concentrated founder community space and a consortium of curated fractional service providers who want to work with growth-stage companies. Partners in the program include the Flywheel Foundation, the Furman Innovation Lab, Founderville.vc (a venture capital studio), and Designli (a software development firm). Additional support comes through the Flywheel Mentor Deck program.

flywheelgreenvillesc.com/futurex



Grants for Startups

Spark

Two cycles per year
Five grants awarded per cycle

Currently offered at the Cabarrus Center location, Spark Grants are \$5,000 starter grants encouraging entrepreneurs to pursue proof of concept for innovative ideas with commercial application. In 2022 five grants were awarded. The program will offer additional grant cycles in 2025. Funding for Spark grants is supported by Flywheel Foundation fundraising. We intend to offer two cycles of grants in 2026.



Retail Lab

Two cycles per year
Five grants awarded per cycle

Companies that successfully complete the Retail Lab Bootcamp can compete for \$2,500 starter grants from the Flywheel Foundation. Funding for this program comes from the support of the Wells Fargo Foundation.



cabarruscenter.com/retail-lab

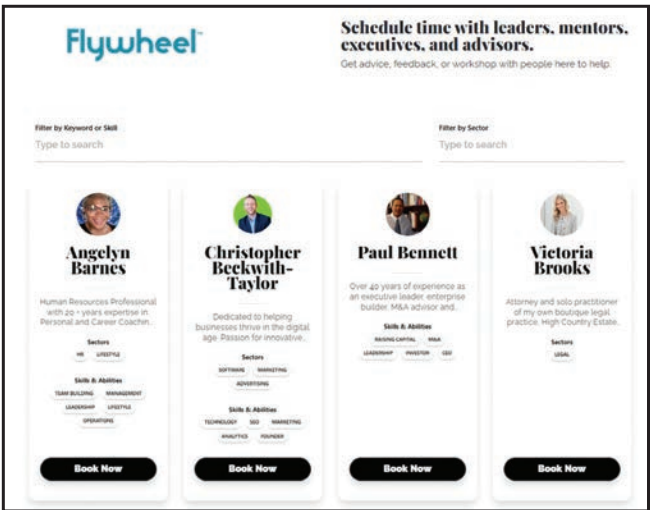
Flywheel Mentor Deck

Flywheel launched Flywheel Mentor Deck program as a resource to all Flywheel members across our location network as well as qualified entrepreneurs in the ecosystems we support. The program is administered by the Flywheel Foundation which will curate mentor and mentee applications. A link to the program landing page is now on the main navigation of all location websites.

The Mentor Deck is an easy-to-use registry of approved mentors in Flywheel's extended network, sortable by skillset and industry, and with integrated bookings with built-in calendar integration. It is a tangible way for us to support our mission of accelerating our members' business success as well as personal and professional development.

All Flywheel members automatically have access to the Mentor Deck. If you are not a Flywheel member but are actively engaged with another partner Entrepreneurship Service Organization program in the region, you can apply to access the Mentor Deck. Your application will be reviewed by the Flywheel Foundation.

flywheelcoworking.com/flywheel-mentor-deck



Investing in Startups

New Ventures Tech Accelerators.....

1-3 Companies selected per year (per region)



Designed for early-stage founders who do not have a technical cofounder, New Ventures Tech Accelerator is a services-based tech accelerator that will offer \$50,000 worth of free software and business development for regional tech startups.



The program is operated under the Flywheel New Ventures accelerator framework with software development firms providing the tech acceleration services. It includes a free residency at Flywheel for selected companies as well as the opportunity to enter the New Ventures equity-based investment network.

The application site for interested founders is open year-round. Applications will be reviewed quarterly and up to three companies per year will be selected for acceleration and incubation.

newventuresnc.com



Connecting Entrepreneurs

Tech Slam 'N Eggs

Monthly Event - Rotating Quarterly

Average Attendance 30

Audience: Software Developers, Startup Founders, Investors



Tech Slam 'N Eggs is a popular event series also held monthly and focused on the software and product development audience. Invited companies "lift the hood" on their technology stacks and share hurdles, solutions and insights with their tech colleagues.

Pitch-Space.com

Monthly Event – Rotating Quarterly by Region

Average Attendance 30

Audience: Investors and Entrepreneurs



Pitch-Space.Com is a platform that makes it easy for investors to review emerging startups supported by Flywheel with a library of profiles and pitch videos sorted by early, seed and growth stage companies. Partnering with regional market partners, we hold live pitch events monthly with virtual attendance as well, and collate startup information so investors have access to up-to-date investment opportunities.

pitch-space.com

ConvergeSouth - Regional Startup Expos.....

Annual Regional Event

Exclusive Sponsor and Title Sponsorships Available

Attendance: Averages 300 per event



ConvergeSouth is a regional celebration of startup activity produced by Flywheel and the Flywheel Foundation and co-sponsored by our regional ecosystem partners. These two-day events average 75 startups exhibiting on a demo floor, attracting investors from throughout the Southeast to connect with emerging and growth-stage companies. Investors are formed into teams to circulate the demo floor and score companies, with the top ten being invited to main stage lightning round pitches. Attendance averages 300+ and the event is a major draw for the entrepreneurial ecosystems.

convergesouth.com



Educating Entrepreneurs

Courses powered by Flywheel

Year-round
Self-directed and Facilitator-led Classes
Participants: 200 entrepreneurs per year



Flywheel's entrepreneurship curriculum is offered through an online learning management system which can be taken self-directed or through facilitator-led classes. The Foundation has developed three flights of curriculum:

- Early-Stage – a multimodule course offering based on lean startup practices applied to ideation, starting a startup, lean marketing, legal protection and financing pathways.
- Growth-Stage – courses that address the journey funded companies take to build an organization, manage operations, get alignment on execution, and navigate venture deals and other forms of funding.
- Hosted Courses – Flywheel partners with a variety of organizations and ESOs to develop their own curriculum and create 24/7 and instructor-led courses on our learning management system.

Our original content is developed in house with the support of successful entrepreneurs and investors. Additional content draws on trusted courseware from Stanford, MIT and a variety of online, print and video lecture resources that have proven to be of value to our startups over the years. Certificates are provided at the end of the class for students that complete the curriculum.

flywheel.courses

Venture Mentoring Service

Year-round
Participants: 90+ Mentors and 60+ Ventures



The Flywheel Foundation develops mentor networks in support of our investment programs as well as a general service to the ecosystems we serve. Dedicated program managers curate venture readiness and arrange mentor team assignment. We use Traction5 software to manage all meeting scheduling and preparation, track the progress of the ventures in the program, and measure the success of the venture-mentor relationship.

In our Concord location, the Foundation holds the MIT license for Venture Mentoring Service which is based on three pillars which apply to all of our mentoring activities:

- Team Mentoring
- Unbiased Advice (no conflict of interest from mentors)
- Confidentiality

cabarruscenter.com/venture-mentoring-service



Flywheel Courses

Finding Your Startup • Lean Startup Practices • Financing a Startup
Startup Legal Matters • Marketing for Startups • Sales for Startups • Analytics for Startups

Sponsorship Opportunities.....

Our corporate and individual sponsors not only underwrite Flywheel Foundation's programming and events, but are also invited to become part of the innovation communities we support. Sponsors are encouraged to become engaged as mentors, coaches and supporters of the Flywheel network. Use our space, use our meeting rooms and become part of our vibrant entrepreneurship communities.

	Mentor \$1,000	Advisor \$2,500	Investor \$5,000	Entrepreneur \$10,000+	Innovator \$25,000
RECOGNITION					
Social Media (Impressions scale with sponsorship level)		•	•	•	•
Website	•	•	•	•	•
Monthly Newsletter		• One Region	• One Region	• Three Regions	• Three Regions
Signage in Flywheel Locations *	•	•	•	•	•
Guest Blog Post			•	•	•
Program Title Sponsor **			•	•	•
Flywheel.Courses Title Sponsor				•	•
ACCESS					
Entrepreneurship Events	•	•	•	•	•
New Ventures Guest Lectures			•	•	•
Flywheel.Courses Lecture			•	•	•
Flywheel.Courses Development				•	•
Host events in Flywheel Social Commons			1 Event	2 Events	3 Events
Coworking Space Use	5 days/month	5 days/month	5 days/month	10 days/month	20 days/month
Meeting Room Access	member rates	2 hours/month	4 hours/month	6 hours/month	10 hours/month
Flywheel Coworking Scholarship in Sponsor's Name			1	2	3
Flywheel Courses Scholarship Contribution			\$100	\$250	\$750

* Physical signage in multiple locations at Entrepreneur and Innovator levels

** Listed as sponsor for one or more programs.

Flywheel Foundation Board of Directors

Flywheel Foundation board of directors are dedicated to serving entrepreneurs and small businesses. Board members receive no compensation.



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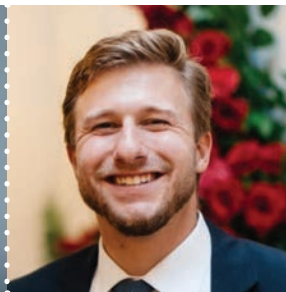
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