

PURDUE

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

To: Purdue Faculty and Staff

From: Dan Hasler, President and Chief Entrepreneurial Officer, Purdue Research Foundation

Date: April 23, 2013

Re: Purdue alumni group to provide free mentoring and advice to Purdue entrepreneurs

At 400,000-plus graduates, Purdue University alumni represent one of the largest, most successful and diverse alumni bases for institutions of higher education.

To support the commercialization of Purdue technology and the entrepreneurship of Purdue innovators, a group of Silicon Valley-based Purdue alumni established an all-volunteer group to provide start-up mentoring and networking support for Purdue innovators and entrepreneurs. This group was an outgrowth of the Engineering Entrepreneurship Task Force led by the School of Industrial Engineering.

The "Silicon Valley Boiler Innovation Group," or SV BIG, has been active for about a year. It links established California venture capitalists, angel investors, entrepreneurs and industry executives who graduated from Purdue with Purdue innovators and entrepreneurs who are attempting to launch their own start-ups.

SV BIG provides an important avenue of support to help commercialize Purdue's innovations through the strength of the Purdue alumni network.

Silicon Valley Boilermaker Innovation Group, SV BIG

- SV BIG was created through the initiative of several dynamic and successful Purdue alumni whose careers have been Silicon Valley based, and is an independent alumni-driven group.
- SV BIG leverages Silicon Valley Purdue alumni to support the creation of successful new ventures in the Purdue community through mentorship and secondarily through influencing university entrepreneurship programs and policies.
- SV BIG can bring critical market advice, fund raising insight, a Silicon Valley cultural perspective on entrepreneurship, and technical know-how to potential entrepreneurs at the university. The objective of SV BIG is to help stimulate a startup culture and community at Purdue and support the creation of wildly successful ventures based upon Purdue technology.
- SV BIG has been organizing programs on the Purdue University West Lafayette campus and by video and conference calls to Silicon Valley to bring together SV BIG members with entrepreneurially minded faculty members, researchers and students across campus.
- SV BIG invites inquiries from Purdue entrepreneurs via its website (below) or through the Purdue West Coast Partnership Center (<http://www.purdue.edu/westcoast/>).

To contact SV BIG or for more information about the initiative, visit <http://www.svbig.org/>