

# Founder Institute starting up in Seattle

October 26, 2009

The Founder Institute (<http://www.founderinstitute.com>) has launched a new semester in the Pacific Northwest: Winter 2009 Seattle. The Institute was started by Adeo Ressi with the goal to help launch 1,000 high-tech companies per year worldwide. The inaugural semester in Silicon Valley graduated 54 companies across the greentech, software, social media, medical device, consumer electronics, and ecommerce industries, and the expansion into Seattle, following recent announcements of San Diego and Washington DC semesters, means that the Institute is on an annualized run rate to help launch more than 250 companies per year.

The Founder Institute is a four month training program for both new and seasoned entrepreneurs. The Institute prepares founders to lead the next generation of world-class technology companies across a wide range industries, from the biotech to the internet. Weekly company-building sessions are guided by experienced CEOs, and they are held in the evening to allow participants to keep their day job or develop their companies during business hours. All of the program stakeholders, from the participating founders to the experienced CEO Mentors, share in the upside generated by the companies formed during the program. Participants also enjoy free services from more than three dozen Institute Partners, fundraising opportunities at fair market value, and a teamwork-oriented environment to build a company.

The Institute has forged a partnership with local entrepreneur Chris Early of FounderWise in Seattle to localize the Institute model of training, mentorship, and shared success. The Institute believes that there are great entrepreneurs in the world that are yet to be discovered. Expanding into different geographical markets is designed to identify burgeoning entrepreneurial talent and to help ignite a culture of collaboration among founders in growing technology markets. Additional locations will be announced in 2009-2010, including a new semester in Silicon Valley.

The Institute is helping to turn established CEOs into Mentors, giving them a structure to help the startup community both locally and around the country. Unlike professional sports, where there are coaches and various levels of leagues, the modern day entrepreneur has to learn everything the hard way, and most mistakes are deadly. On the other hand, most successful entrepreneurs do not mind helping as long as there is some structure. We are seeing CEO Mentors from the first semester signing up to help all around the country, like Bryan Thatcher of Empressr (New York), who has signed up for 10 sessions across three locations.

The Founder Institute in Seattle has attracted both local and remote CEO Mentors. From the local group, you have Derrick Morton, CEO FlowPlay, and Bryan Starbuck, CEO of TalentSpring, among others. Remote Mentors include David Kidder, CEO of Clickable.com (New York) and Bryan Thatcher, CEO of Empressr (New York), among others. A bunch of additional CEOs are being considered for Mentor positions in Seattle, and established CEOs can apply to be a Mentor at <http://www.founderinstitute.com/users/new?flag=Mentor&target=5>.

Potential Founders (students) interested in the Seattle winter semester of the Founder Institute can apply at <http://www.founderinstitute.com/apply/5>.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Founder Institute program in the Seattle area is invited to a special informational evening at the Boeing Auditorium on the University of Washington campus on the evening of November 2nd, 2009, hosted by the UW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Registration for the event is available at <http://institute-seattle.eventbrite.com>.

The winter Seattle semester is being hosted by local law firm Garvey Schubert Barer, who represents emerging technology companies at every stage of development and across industry sectors, including software, internet media, hardware, peripherals, gaming, medical devices, and clean technology.

Chris Early, former general manager of Windows Gaming Technology at Microsoft, launched FounderWise, (<http://www.founderwise.com>) to operate the Institute in Seattle and to be a founder-centric resource for simplifying the process of founding a successful startup, focusing on training entrepreneurs and establishing an extensive library of original and compiled startup resources.

**Winter 2009 Seattle Area Details:**

Sessions: 12/07/2009 - 04/05/2010

Founder Application Link: <http://www.founderinstitute.com/apply/5>

Early Admissions Close on November 12, 2009

Initial Mentors: <http://www.founderinstitute.com/information/mentors?target=5> (more to come)

**Contacts:**

PR: pr -at- founderwise -dot- com

Chris Early: chris.early -at- founderwise -dot- com