

2025

PENNOVATION

PENNOVATION
ACCELERATOR
PITCH DAY

JULY 23, 2025

ABOUT PITCH DAY

PENNOVATION
ACCELERATOR

2025 Cohort



We are so glad you could join us for Pitch Day, the culminating event of the 8th annual Pennovation Accelerator.

Each summer, the Accelerator program invites a cohort of local startups to engage in a six-week program to develop their business strategy and cultivate their network. Cohort companies participate in weekly educational sessions presented by subject matter experts. Each company is paired with an experienced mentor to advise them on their journey. In addition, curated networking opportunities help companies make connections into the larger Philadelphia entrepreneurial community.

The 2025 Pennovation Accelerator cohort is comprised of ten companies representing a variety of industries from MedTech, financial management platforms, AI, robotics, and more.

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ABOUT PENNOVATION WORKS



What's In The Works?

Pennovation Works is a 23-acre urban technology park with a distinctive blend of offices, labs, and production space.

Developed by The University of Pennsylvania, this innovation hub links the region's intellectual assets, industry partners, research trailblazers, and entrepreneurial and community leaders, all with the shared purpose of advancing knowledge and generating economic impact.

Our state-of-the-art facilities house more than 70 companies and a robust community of innovators, all solving real world problems and translating inventiveness into viable ventures.

The Pennovation Center

The Pennovation Center is a startup incubator that provides resources and support to new, early-stage businesses via flexible space and membership options.

Intended to marry entrepreneurs with an expert workforce and scientifically advanced facilities, key features of the Pennovation Center include common creative spaces and coworking areas, in addition to curated events and programs.

By creating an atmosphere for collaboration, the Pennovation Center brings people together to foster interaction and the exchange of ideas.

AGENDA



- 1:00 Doors Open
- 1:15 Introduction to Panel & Structure
- 1:30 **MEND**
- 1:42 **Earable Intelligence**
- 1:54 **Serpent Robotics**
- 2:06 **Havit**
- 2:18 **WheelPathAI**
- 2:30 ~ INTERMISSION ~
- 2:50 **TheraV**
- 3:02 **CS Capital**
- 3:14 **The Glam Rush**
- 3:26 **Pathlight Project**
- 3:38 ~ INTERMISSION ~
- 3:45 Accelerator Alumni Updates: Revise Robotics and
ticker and Judges Deliberation
- 4:02 Winner Announcement & Closing / Networking

ABOUT OUR JUDGES



DENITA HENDERSON

Managing Director, Pennovation Works

Denita oversees the strategic master plan of Pennovation Works, and leads business development of the site, including marketing, communications, and leasing. As a strategic and innovative visionary with over twenty years of experience, Denita built her career on developing programs and partnerships that strengthen and connect diverse communities, create value, and drive meaningful change. As Managing Director, she focuses on advancing the growing community of researchers and entrepreneurs at Pennovation Works.

PHILLIP (PJ) JOHNSTON

Executive in Residence, Avea Ventures

Philip Johnston (PJ) is a B2B SaaS leader in the clinical data space, with experience in scaling, product-led growth, and multi-product platforms. His experience spans company stages (startup, M&A, listed public company) and roles (operator, investor). He currently advises transactions (angel, VC, PE firms) and incubates new ventures in the healthcare and biopharma SaaS sector. Interests include real world data, clinical comms, and AI orchestration.



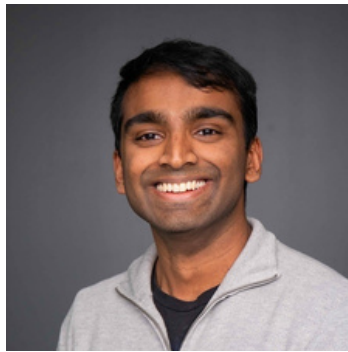
SUSHMA RAJAGOPALAN

Partner, Rittenhouse Ventures

Sushma Rajagopalan is a seasoned business leader and technology CEO turned venture capitalist. A Partner at Rittenhouse Venture, a growth stage VC in tech. An active mentor to entrepreneurs and CEOs, particularly women founders/CEOs. Based in Devon PA.

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MEET THE ACCELERATOR ALUMNI SPEAKERS



Rupesh Jeyaram
CEO



Antonio Monreal
CTO

Rupesh Jeyaram, CEO of Revise Robotics, brings a cross-disciplinary background in robotics, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. He earned his MBA from The Wharton School in 2024 with a focus on Entrepreneurship and Business, Energy, Environment & Sustainability, and holds a Computer Science degree from Caltech. Prior to founding Revise, he served as the computer vision lead at Renovate Robotics, developing perception systems for an automated roofing robot operating in hazardous construction environments.

Antonio Monreal, CTO of Revise Robotics, grew up between Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, where he spent weekends during high school refurbishing broken laptops for this family's business. Antonio went on to graduate from Caltech with a degree in Electrical Engineering and worked in the Bay Area designing and deploying engineering systems. Today, Antonio leverages these experiences as Co-Founder & CTO of Revise Robotics, designing robotic systems that automate the electronics refurbishment process.

MEET THE ACCELERATOR ALUMNI SPEAKERS



Logan Jones
Founder + CEO

Logan Jones is a founder, attorney, and retail investor with a background in business law, operations, and human resources. She holds a B.S.B.A. in Entrepreneurship from High Point University and a J.D. from Rutgers University. Logan previously served as Chief of Staff at a Legal AI startup that was acquired and at a financial services firm, leading cross-functional growth and strategy. Known for her user obsession, strategic thinking, and team-building skills, she's now focused on closing the investing confidence gap. As founder of ti¢ker, she's on a mission to lower the barrier for first-generation investors—especially women and people of color—by making investing more social, trustworthy, and engaging.

MEET THE COHORT



FOUNDER: COLIN SAHAGUN

CS Capital is the first investment-backed capital card, redefining secured credit for modern investors.

CONTACT COLIN AT: COLIN@CSCAPITAL.COM



FOUNDER: BENJAMIN FERLEGER

Earable Intelligence is developing a chronic neuromonitoring platform for epilepsy patients.

CONTACT BEN AT: BENJAMIN.FERLEGER@PENNMEDICINE.UPENN.EDU

havit

**FOUNDERS: SEON WOO LEE, JUNGYUN KIM, DONGHEE KIM,
JOVITA TEDJA**

Havit is the AI-powered beauty habit builder—rewarding users for daily product use with verifiable challenges while giving brands proof of real results.

CONTACT SUNNY AT: LEESEONWOO0324@GMAIL.COM

MEET THE COHORT

MEND

**FOUNDERS: TOP CHAROENSOMBUT, DANA RAGBIRSINGH,
RICCARDO GOTTARDI, JOHN GERMILLER**

MEND is developing a bioengineered graft to repair eardrum perforations.

CONTACT TOP AT: CHAROENSON@CHOP.EDU

PATHLIGHT PROJECT

FOUNDERS: KUSHAL PATEL, ARIYAN PATEL, RON SARAMYA,

Pathlight is lighting the path for the blind and visually-impaired.

CONTACT KUSHAL AT: KPATE2007@GMAIL.COM



SERPENT ROBOTICS

REVOLUTIONIZING THE FUTURE OF TREE CARE

FOUNDERS: STEYN KNOLLEMA, JASON LI, YIRAN XUAN

Serpent Robotics is on a mission to eliminate the danger of tree cutting by replacing risky manual labor with smart & affordable robotic assistance.

CONTACT STEYN AT: STEYN.KNOLLEMA@GMAIL.COM

MEET THE COHORT

THE GLAM RUSH

FOUNDERS: KIANNA BINGHAM, ADEWUNMI ADE-OYETAYO

The Glam Rush is an on-demand beauty delivery platform for urgent needs, especially for Black and brown women.

CONTACT KIANNA AT: K18BINGHAM@GMAIL.COM



FOUNDER: AMIRA RADOVIC

TheraV is a healthtech company for post-amputation care with drug-free, wearable solutions.

CONTACT AMIRA AT: AMIRA@WEARTHHERAV.COM



FOUNDER: DEVAUGHN NANCE

WheelPath AI is a communication automation tool for specialty construction contractors using AI agents.

CONTACT DEVAUGHN AT: DNANCE1927@GMAIL.COM

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS



MARKET ASSESSMENT

PHILIP (PJ) JOHNSTON

EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE, AVEA VENTURES



BRANDING & STORYTELLING

TIM FORTECUE

FOUNDER, 40 WATT CONSULTING



BUILDING & SUPPORTING A TEAM

ANDREW “DREW” CARTON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT, THE WHARTON SCHOOL



FINANCING & MILESTONES

KEVIN MCMONAGLE

CONTROLLER & CFO, RSM

PATRICIA TANG

INVESTOR-OPERATOR, MONTAUK CLIMATE VENTURE STUDIO



THE ASK

BIANCA SCHILLING

CHIEF OF STAFF & INVESTOR, APPRENTIS VENTURES

Josh Mastromatto

FOUNDER & CEO, REGO - PENNOVATION ACCELERATOR '21

Sarah Beth Gleeson

*CO-FOUNDER AND CTO, BALEENA, PENNOVATION ACCELERATOR '22
- OVERALL WINNER*

FERNANDA SESTO

PRE-SEED INVESTOR, UNSHACKLED VENTURES

THANK YOU TO OUR MENTORS

ADAM SALAMON

CEO & FOUNDER,
PRESSION

BEN BARTOLOME

VP STARTUP BANKING,
JPMORGAN

BRIAN DOONER

Principal, Dooner
Social Ventures

GREG YEUTTER

FOUNDER AND CEO,
RESTFUL

KAREN MEIDLINGER

DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS,
CENTER FOR CLEAN HYDROGEN,
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

JULIA ANTHONY

FOUNDER AND CSO,
SOLUTION MEDICAL

KRISTY CARABELLO

FOUNDER, VERTIGE |
COMMUNICATIONS,
PENNOVATION WORKS

MELISA LOPEZ-ANTON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
PCI VENTURES

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CONSULTANT, MICHAEL
PERETZ CONSULTING

VERA HEMPEL

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO,
KISSUX

VICTOR TAABAC

PRESIDENT, GRAYSON SKY

VINCENT PEREZ

STRATEGIC ADVISOR AND
INNOVATION PARTNER

YI-YEN CHEN

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PCI
VENTURES



A BIG THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO
MAKING THIS YEAR'S
ACCELERATOR A
SUCCESS!

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Thank You

FOR JOINING US!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE
[PENNOVATION.UPENN.EDU](https://pennovation.upenn.edu)**

