Vocademy

Vocademy is THE place to learn and make ANYTHING. A "makerspace" where anyone can go to learn hands-on skills and use those skills to create or design whatever they wish using the equipment and tools in the 15,000 sq. ft. dream-workshop that is open 7-days a week. It is like a gym, but instead of treadmills and weights, they will have machines, tools, and instructors. The concept is that when you "swipe your card" you have full access to the facility, and many of the machines will require the member to take classes that Vocademy will offer.

Vocademy will include a wood shop, metal shop, fab & welding, sewing & crafts, 3D printing & scanning, electronic & robotics’ lab, and much more! It is a place to create, to learn, to share, to build, and to connect with others who have similar interests and passions.

Vocademy is building relationships with local schools and businesses to help them with training students and employees. Yet, Vocademy is open to everyone in the community, so people can learn what they want, when they want. "We consider Vocademy a home away from home where people gather and learn" says Gene Sherman, founder of Vocademy. "We envision a place where people will become empowered by what they come to know, try, and achieve. To sum it up, Vocademy's philosophy is to make people more valuable to the world.

In June, Vocademy ran one of the most successful crowdfunding campaigns on www.FUNDABLE.com. And with the help of almost 100 supporters, their ‘grassroots’ campaign raised nearly $62,000. "We are proud to say that this was the most successful "brick and mortar" business crowdfunding effort in the Inland Empire to date" remarked Sherman.

Vocademy is set to open this October. When talking about this new business, Mayor Rusty Bailey said, "Vocademy is an ideal solution to assist in training Riverside’s ever-growing skilled labor force and entreprenureal community."
The Riverside Startup Weekend

The winning Fetchit team poses with the judges at Startup Weekend. From left, UCR students Daniel Langridge and Chris Manghane, incoming UCR students Darrell and Daniel Peeden, Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey, Inland Empire Tech Coast Angels President Molly Schmid, and Rajan Kasetty, CEO of Terrafore, Inc. Photo by Conley Read.

For 54 hours on the first weekend of May, the Culver Center at the University of California, Riverside’s ARTSblock became the center of the high-tech startup universe – or at least Inland Southern California’s corner of it – as the venue played host to “Riverside Startup Weekend,” a three-day event that helps entrepreneurs learn the basics of founding startup companies and successful ventures.

Sponsored in part by The Kauffman Foundation, as well as Microsoft and Google, the nonprofit Startup Weekend organization has held more than 1,000 events since its inception. The inaugural Riverside event was held May 3 through 5 and was organized in their spare time by UCR Computing & Communication (C&C) employees Mike Kennedy and Conley Read, along with their friend Benjamin Mueller. The trio have each been part of an organization called StartupIE that has the mission to bring together students, entrepreneurs and potential investors to build successful startup companies in the Inland Empire.

The event attracted 60 participants, including developers, designers and business entrepreneurs. On the first day, participants pitched their ideas, which were voted on by the group. The group then divided up into 12 teams, which spent the next two days developing their ideas and putting together a presentation for the three judge panel, which included Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey, Inland Empire Tech Coast Angels President Molly Schmid, and Rajan Kasetty, CEO of Terrafore, Inc.

Excerpts from an article written by Ross French, UCR
Riverside.io Is Open for Business

Riverside.io is a nonprofit coworking and hackerspace created by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs. The space is located in the heart of historic Downtown Riverside at 3567 Main Street Riverside, CA 92501. Coworking is, at its core, a shared office space. You go there to work on your project, meet with clients, and build your startup. It becomes a dynamic place where teams are formed, new startups are built, businesses are created, inventions are realized, young tech talent is nurtured, and friendships happen.

The goal for Riverside.io, is to build a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem and influence the creation of jobs to help strengthen the local economy. This is accomplished by providing a cost effective space to learn, innovate, collaborate, and grow successful startups.

On Tuesday, August 6th at 6pm, Riverside.io will be hosting an open house to meet local entrepreneurs and individuals interested in the space. The official grand opening will follow this event at a later date. For further information about the Riverside.io project visit http://riverside.io/ or contact Benjamin Mueller at ben@riverside.io.

Bourns Incubator

The Bourns Technology and Conference Center is working with the City of Riverside on a Conditional Use Permit to host a church, Cornerstone Fellowship Bible Church, along with the Science Technology Education Partnership (STEP) Conference and conferences for UC Riverside’s CE-CERT as well as Bourns, Inc. meetings. With these uses and their current six tenants, they have very limited incubator space remaining.

Monoprice

Monoprice Acquired By Blucora In $180M Deal

Rancho Cucamonga-based Monoprice, an online retailer selling home theater components, speakers, and related consumer electronics products, has been acquired for $180M in cash by Internet company Blucora. According to Blucora, Monoprice was founded in 2002, and sells its own, name-brand items on its website. Monoprice had revenues of $131.1M for the twelve months ending June 30, 2013. Monoprice is headed by Ajay Kumar. Blucora said it will continue its operations in Rancho Cucamonga. Rancho Cucamonga is in Southern California's Inland Empire, directly east of Los Angeles. Blucora is based in the Seattle area, and owns Infospace and TaxACT.
TRITECH SBDC INLAND EMPIRE RESULT

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EXPO

INNOVATION ECONOMY

Past Events

Innovation Economy Expo, held on May 9, 2013 at the Ontario Convention Center in Southern California, Innovation Economy Expo was a tremendous first step in building a base for a crowd-powered, collaboration platform to serve as a resource to connect businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs with the resources needed for success in the new innovative global economy.

With support from more than 190 Participating Stakeholders, nearly 40 Strategic Sponsors, 70 Exhibitors, 13 Collaborative Partners and 50 expert Speakers and Presenters - it was a day that brought together many of the right players needed for advancing the economic and social benefits of high-growth business success.