PRESS RELEASE

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Startup Ladies Reveal Top 9 Women Founders for 4th Annual #InvestInWomenFounders Summit

Indianapolis, IN – October 9, 2025 – The Startup Ladies, a professional membership organization dedicated to educating, connecting, and funding women business owners, is proud to announce the Top 9 founders and interviewers for its **Fourth Annual #InvestInWomenFounders Summit**, taking place **Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Skyline Club in Indianapolis, Indiana**.

The Summit brings together investors, corporate partners, and top women entrepreneurs to accelerate funding opportunities and celebrate women founders who are driving innovation across diverse industries. The Top 9 founders selected to participate this year represent a range of sectors from health tech and EdTech to fashion, consumer products, and hospitality.

Meet the Top 9 Founders:

- **Lana Ashby Rowder**, Founder & CEO of lookingGLASS – Texas
  Next-gen styling platform that delivers daily outfits from users' own closets while unlocking scalable wardrobe data for retailers.

- **Shannon Aylesworth**, CEO of Ursamin – New York
  SaaS-based care coordination platform helping outpatient clinics manage patient care across a fragmented healthcare system.

- **Kristina Bagnoli**, Co-Founder/CEO of 5ENSES, LLC – Indiana
  A sensory-friendly app delivering real-time environmental data and community insights to help neurodivergent individuals confidently navigate social spaces.

- **Cindy Dunston Quirk**, Founder and Chief Dog Lover of Scout & Zoe's – Indiana
  A breakthrough gauze that stops bleeding by cauterizing injuries in 60 seconds.

- **Tamara Fyke**, Founder of BlueWonder Creative, Inc. – Tennessee
  Brav3Up, a digital mental health and wellbeing platform for youth ages 8-12 and their families.

- **Michelle Hurdle**, CEO & Founder of Gig Dental – Indiana
  A digital platform connecting dental professionals and offices directly for jobs, scheduling, and credentialing, eliminating the high costs and hassles of staffing agencies.

- **Eve Keller**, Owner of Magic Peacock Impact, Inc DBA The Sports Bra Indy – Indiana
  Inclusive, women-focused sports bar and restaurant experience celebrating women's sports while fostering a safe, welcoming community space.

- **Caitlin Walsh**, CEO & Founder of The Haus, LLC DBA Caitie G – Indiana
  Stadium bag brand prioritizing compliance, style, and privacy.

- **Nakeisha Washington**, CEO & Founder of Nyla Denae' Enterprises, LLC DBA Nyla Nova STEMversity – Indiana
  Scalable STEM kits and edutainment programs designed to cultivate the next generation of global innovators.

Breaking the Pitch Mold:

Traditional pitch competitions rarely translate into actual funding for women founders. In 2025, of the $209 billion invested in U.S. startups, women founders received just **2%** of that total. To counteract this gender disparity, The Startup Ladies take a different approach. The Top 9 founders are paired with an exited founder or seasoned executive for an Oprah-style interview covering all the key content of a traditional pitch while giving investors and the audience an authentic view of the founder, her vision, and her approach. Following the interview, prospective investors have the opportunity to meet directly with the founders to explore potential investment opportunities.

2025 Interviewers:

- **Rebecca Bormann**, Founder & CEO, RB Consulting Agency
- **Kristine Camron**, Partner, Camron Molin, LLC
- **Liz Conzo-Kershner**, Sr. Director – Strategy, Insights & Advanced Analytics, Delta Faucet
- **Teresa Danielson**, Owner, T&J Northern Michigan Rentals, LLC
- **Jon Dartt**, City Councilman, Westfield, IN
- **Christi Garcia**, Lead, Talent Acquisition and Community Engagement, E-gineering
- **Jim Parshall**, Executive Director – Delivery Device R&D, Eli Lilly
- **Doug Rammel**, Owner, T&J Northern Michigan Rentals, LLC

Quotes:

"As a Startup Ladies Board member and business owner, I'm thrilled about the caliber of talent in our 2025 Top 9. These women are tackling major business challenges with sophisticated solutions and the vision to scale through smart hiring. This Summit is an incredible opportunity for investors and those ready to learn how to invest – to show up for women founders and back them like the CEOs they are." – **Julie Warnecke, Founder & CEO, Found Search Marketing LLC**

"More than 60% of investments made through Startup Ladies members come from men. The Startup Ladies attract smart, engaged men who want to fund smart women-owned businesses. This year, I'd love to see more women with the financial capacity step up, engage, and move capital into the hands of women business owners. Whether you're a first-time or angel investor, or an executive interested in funding untapped markets, this is your opportunity to connect with women building companies that solve major problems in large, untapped markets." – **Kristen Cooper, Founder & CEO, The Startup Ladies**

Event Details:
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025
Time: Noon – 6 p.m.
Location: Skyline Club, Indianapolis, IN

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit:
https://www.thestartupladies.org/2025summit

Media interested in speaking with The Startup Ladies about their upcoming #InvestInWomenFounders Summit should contact:

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About The Startup Ladies

The Startup Ladies is a professional membership organization for entrepreneurs, investors, and corporations. The woman-owned company identifies, educates, connects, and increases investment in women entrepreneurs starting up and scaling businesses. The organization's goals are to: increase the number of women starting up scalable businesses and help them secure investment to grow.

Through in-person events, live virtual training, eLearning, and one-on-one mentoring, entrepreneurs go from: idea, to market, to growth. Individuals with financial capacity are taught how to invest in startups, and then are connected to investor-ready founders. Corporations providing ancillary services to founders and funders secure new deals by participating in events.

People of every gender are welcome to participate and become members. Learn more about membership and attending events at: TheStartupLadies.org.