



2026

THE BIZ FOUNDRY

Building the Upper Cumberland's
Entrepreneurial Economy

IMAGINE. START. GROW.





INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

INVESTING IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*The Future Economy
Will be Built Differently*



Entrepreneurship is the often overlooked third leg of the economic and community development stool.

Studies have repeatedly shown that most organizations and government entities assume that someone else is doing it.

We, along with our community partners, are that someone else!



INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

WHY THIS MATTERS

Economic Development affects us all

Regions that win over the next decade will not simply recruit jobs. They will create them!



The most resilient economies are built by entrepreneurs who:

- Start Companies
- Create jobs
- Attract Investment
- Retain talent
- Create wealth in the community

Entrepreneurship is no longer a niche activity.

IT IS ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.





A REGION POSITIONED FOR GROWTH

*The Upper Cumberland
Opportunity*

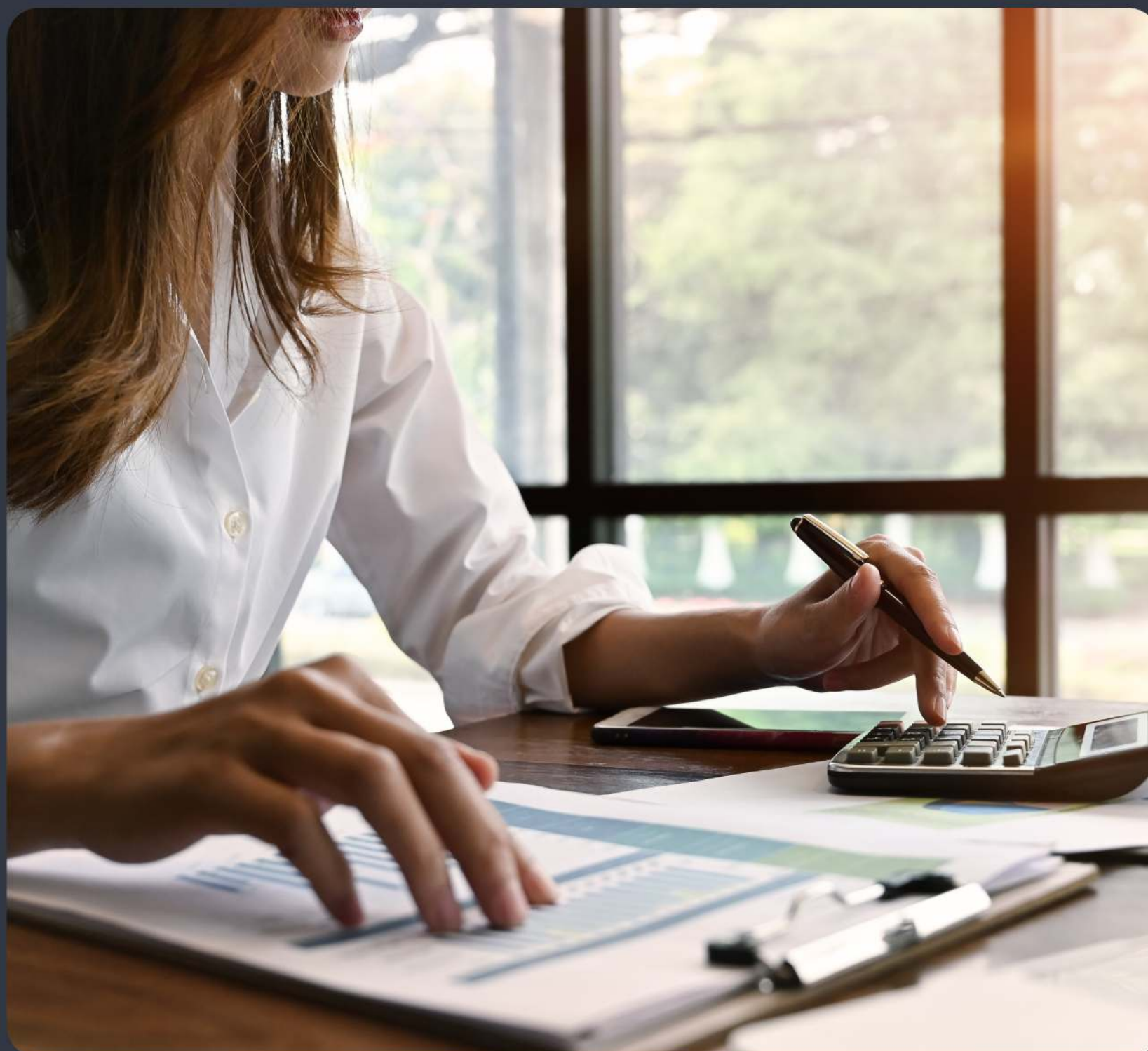
The Upper Cumberland possess significant advantages:

- Tennessee Tech University
- Strong Quality of Life
- Growing Population
- Emerging Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
- Regional Business Leadership
- Affordable Cost Structure

Yet significant opportunities remain:

- Limited Startup Capital
- Talent Retention Challenges
- Rural Access Barriers
- Limited Entrepreneurial Support Capacity
- Need for Stronger Commercialization Pathways

The opportunity is not simply to support entrepreneurs.
The opportunity is to build a stronger regional economy.



THE ENTREPRENEURIAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE UC

Mission:

To build a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing the needed resources at the stage entrepreneurs need them.

LAUNCH TN EC PARTNER

One of nine statewide entrepreneur centers for 14 years

ANGEL FUND

Launched Tennessee's first EC sponsored Angel fund of \$1.M+

REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADER

With leadership having 100+ years of experience, experts who actually know what they are doing

TRUSTED STARTUP SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Serving 200+ companies annually, no other organization is better positioned or more flexible



INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

RESULTS THAT MATTER

Recent Impact



THESE ARE NOT JUST ACTIVITIES.

THESE ARE BUSINESSES, JOBS, INVESTMENTS,
AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.



STARTUPS SERVED

Through coaching,
bootcamps, and events 800+
companies have been
impacted



CAPITAL SECURED

\$18M in investments to our
region



COACHING CLIENTS

200+ clients have met with
our team



TECHNICAL ASSITANCE

Thousands of hours spent on
hundreds of entrepreneurs



STARTUPS LAUNCHED

Dozens launched annually



COLLOBARATION

Partnerships with TSBDC, TTU,
Regional Lenders, and TNECD



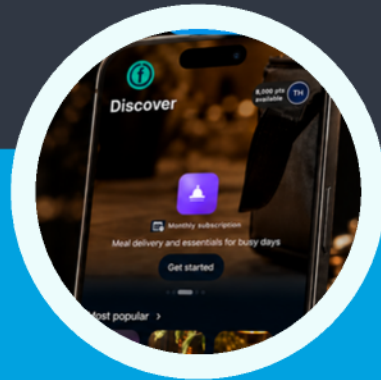
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ACTION

Real Companies. Real Jobs. Real Impact.



MEG'S BREAD

- Launched during pandemic-StartUp alum
- Revenue, jobs and expansion of 10x plus
- Became local institution
- Start Up Bootcamp Grad



FULFILD

- Large local investment
- Created multiple jobs
- Can scale to one of Region's largest tech companies



SKIP THE LINE

- 100+ Venue
- \$8M In transactions
- 2x Staff Growth In next 8 months



METAFLEX

- TTU Eagleworks winner
- First investment UCIA
- Returned to BF to Launch in Cookeville

Each began with an idea.

Each created economic value.

Each demonstrates the multiple effect of entrepreneurial investment.



WHAT WE HEARD

Independant Market Validation

Differentiating in the competitive fintech market through innovative technology, a customer-centric approach, and the ability to scale rapidly. Unlike traditional financial institutions, the solutions are designed to be flexible, accessible, and affordable for a broad range of users.

EXPAND CAPACITY

Additional staff and entrepreneurial support resources

TTU ALIGNMENT

Build commercialization pathways and Innovation partnerships

CAPITAL ACCESS

Investor networks, funding pathways, and financing startups

REGIONAL EXPANSION

Greater access across the Upper Cumberland region



NOW IS THE TIME TO SCALE



INVESTOR CAMPAIGN



THE VISION

Imagine. Start. Grow.

3 pillars guide
the next chapter...



IMAGINE

Develop future
entrepreneurs

Introduce innovation &
entrepreneurship

Inspire the next
generation

START

Help entrepreneurs
launch successful
businesses

Provide coaching,
mentorship, and capital
access

GROW

Help businesses scale

Create Jobs

Attract Investment

Increase regional
competitiveness



ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

Outcomes we will measure

BUSINESSES LAUNCHED

CAPITAL RAISED

JOBS CREATED

ENTREPRENEURS SERVED

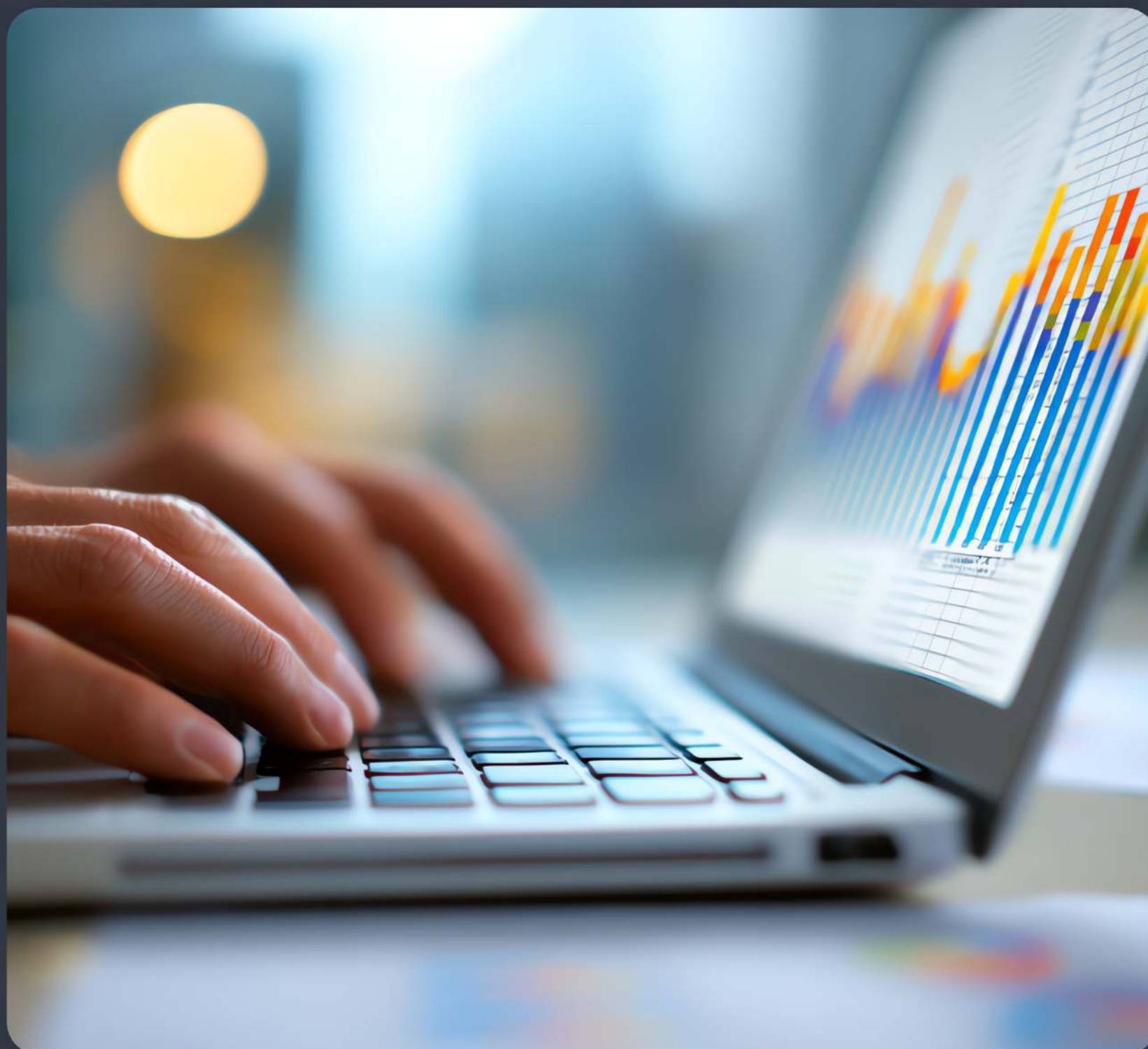
STARTUP SURVIVAL RATES

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS ENGAGED

RURAL ENTREPRENEURS REACHED

through these means:

QUARTERLY DASHBOARDS
ANNUAL INVESTOR BRIEFING
TRANSPARENT REPORTING





CAMPAIGN GOAL

*A Three-year Investment in
Regional Growth*



Campaign goal - \$900,000 over 3 years



Annual goal - \$300,000

Funds will be used to:

Expand Entrepreneurial Capacity

Support Innovation Commercialization

Increase Access to Capital

Grow Regional Impact



LEADERSHIP INVESTMENT STRUCTURE

All investors become partners in building the region's future.



FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

\$50,000+



INNOVATION PARTNERS

\$25,000



GROWTH PARTNERS

\$10,000



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

\$5,000



**FRIENDS OF
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

\$2,500



INVESTOR CAMPAIGN



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

More than an investment

ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE BOARD

MENTOR NETWORK

CAPITAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS

PITCH COMPETITIONS

ENTREPRENEUR SHOWCASES

TENNESSEE TECH INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS

This campaign is about engagement, not simply funding.





INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Why investment

More Jobs

More Local Wealth

More Innovation

More Capital Investment

More Talent Retention

More Business Ownership

A Stronger Upper Cumberland Economy





INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

PARTNERS & SPONSORS





INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

BUILDING THE UPPER CUMBERLAND'S ENTREPRENEURIAL ECONOMY



The entrepreneurs are here.
The opportunities are here.
The momentum is here.

*Now we must build the capacity to match
opportunity!*

IMAGINE. START. GROW.