

January 14 NEW Digital Alliance Quarterly Meeting Speakers



Joe Kirgues

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Joe cofounded the gener8tor program where he manages the company's efforts along with his business partner Troy Vosseller.

gener8tor's programs include (1) its 45 startup, music and art accelerators, which operate across 24 cities featuring corporate partners Allianz, American Family Insurance, Boston Scientific, Microsoft and Universal Music Group; (2) its corporate programming including its OnRamp Conference series in insurance and manufacturing; and, (3) its Upskilling program operated across 4 states.

The 300+ startup graduates of the gener8tor accelerator have raised over \$500 million in follow-on financing and created over 5,000 jobs.



Jennifer Turnquist

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Jennifer Turnquist is a Client Director with Dev10, Genesis10's Talent Creation Program that is dedicated to delivering a new pipeline of technical talent, skilled on in-demand technologies like Java, .NET, and Data Engineering while also providing a pathway into technology for candidates that would not otherwise have that opportunity. Jennifer has been with the Dev10 Organization since its inception and is responsible for sharing the Dev10 story across the state. She is passionate about the impact the Dev10 program has on clients, candidates, and communities.



Carly Kroll

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Carly's diverse background includes education, research, and communication. She is passionate about emerging technologies and their effects on the workforce. She holds a Master's in Education from National Louis University, and a Master's in Communication Technology from Marquette University.

In her position as Director of Education at New Resources Consulting, she drives the creation and delivery of education initiatives for clients. Additionally, she composes thought leadership through white papers, blogs, and articles.

Outside of NRC Carly is an adjunct instructor at Marquette University in the communication college. Her previous roles have been in marketing and research capacities for Augmented Reality Software companies.



Ankur Gopal
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Ankur Gopal is the founder of Interapt, an award-winning IT Services firm that works with Fortune 1000 companies and communities on digital transformation and IT workforce training. As in many companies and communities, Gopal faced difficulty in finding talent to serve the needs of his clients, which led him to create a 6-month paid training program which has now turned into one of the leading IT Apprenticeship models in the U.S. His program focuses on serving underemployed and unemployed individuals in rural and urban areas, as well as veterans into IT job opportunities with upward mobility.

This model for creating high-wage IT job opportunities; while simultaneously removing people from crises, has been called a bold national model in solving the skills gap and creating net new jobs for America. Additionally, Interapt has worked with the Department of Labor on helping write the national standards for IT Apprenticeships in the U.S. Most recently, Interapt announced a national partnership with General Assembly, and is responsible for bringing their training into Kentucky, creating new opportunities for many.

Interapt has created multiple training locations throughout Kentucky, with City of Refuge in Atlanta, and is now expanding their model nationally with global partners, supported by the Humana Foundation. Companies that have partnered with Interapt include EY, Humana, Churchill Downs, El Toro, Chase, Elavon, GE Appliances, Kindred Healthcare, and Netsmart.

Interapt's work has been featured in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, EY Strategic Growth Forum, Salesforce Dreamforce, TEDx Palo Alto, USA Today, and The Daily Show with Trevor Noah. Interapt's success in retraining was also highlighted by Ivanka Trump on Fox News, who visited Interapt graduates in 2018.

Ankur is the recipient of the EY Entrepreneur of The Year, 40 Under 40, Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, and Business First's Business of the Year. He was honored by his alma mater, the University of Illinois, as their 2018 Commencement Speaker. Ankur has been a featured speaker at The University of Chicago, Stanford University, and Mckesson's Annual Meeting. He continues to speak at conferences and corporations throughout the world on creating high-tech

job opportunities by blending capitalism, altruism, and entrepreneurship. He credits the guidance of his teachers, mentors, and family's immigration story for helping define his purpose and his entrepreneurial journey.

Ankur is an alumnus of Second City Chicago, where he performed stand-up comedy and improv on the Main Stage. He is a lifelong tennis player, and continues to play and compete. He enjoys live music, Netflix series, video games, and cooking for his friends and family.

He and his wife, Dr. Kiran Gopal, reside in Louisville and have 2 children, Arya (4) and Arman (2).



Laura Schmidt

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Laura Schmidt serves as the Chief Talent Development Officer for the Milwaukee Tech Coalition where she is responsible for talent pipeline strategies in K-20 as well as Re/Upskilling to support the Coalition's goal to double the tech talent in the greater Milwaukee region. Previously she served as the Director of Corporate Engagement at MSOE, the Strategic Advisor to the Superintendent for the School District of New Berlin, and as a Manager in Field Technology Systems at Northwestern Mutual. She holds an MBA from Marquette University and a BBA in the Management of Computer Systems from UW-Whitewater.