

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Venture Capital Association Awarded \$500,000 from the Michigan Strategic Fund to Expand Statewide Venture Capital Talent Development

Bloomfield Hill, MI — [October 28, 2025] — The Michigan Venture Capital Association (MVCA) announced today that the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board has approved a \$500,000 award to support the Michigan Venture Talent Development Program, a comprehensive initiative designed to strengthen Michigan’s venture capital talent pipeline and enhance the state’s competitiveness in the national innovation economy.

The award, administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) through its Michigan Innovation Fund: Startup Support Services program, will enable MVCA to launch and expand several high-impact initiatives focused on venture education, mentorship, and industry research.

“We are honored to receive this support from the Michigan Strategic Fund Board and MEDC,” said Ara Topouzian, Executive Director of MVCA. “This investment validates the importance of building a robust venture capital talent base in Michigan and ensures that our state continues to lead in developing, attracting, and retaining the investors who fuel startup growth.”

The Michigan Venture Talent Development Program will fund three complementary initiatives over the next three years:

1. **MVCA VentureTrack** — an expanded professional training program for students, analysts, and emerging fund managers that includes expert instruction, case studies, and structured mentorship with Michigan’s seasoned venture capitalists.
2. **Advanced Venture Forum** — a high-level convening series designed to support Michigan’s experienced General Partners (GPs) with timely education, peer collaboration, and trend analysis on topics such as LP engagement, policy shifts, and emerging investment strategies.
3. **MVCA Impact Report** — a five-year data-driven research initiative that tracks Michigan’s venture capital performance, benchmarks national competitiveness, and informs policy through detailed analysis and outreach in partnership with PitchBook.

Together, these programs will train and mentor the next generation of venture capital professionals, strengthen fund development across Michigan, and provide the data-driven insights needed to inform strategic investments and policy decisions.

The MEDC noted that the MVCA proposal “stood out for its strong potential and clear alignment with Michigan’s vision to advance technology commercialization and support high-growth startups.” MVCA’s selection followed a highly competitive process in which over 100 applications were received statewide.

“This investment supports MVCA’s long-standing mission to make Michigan a leader in venture capital growth,” said Topouzian. “By connecting talent development with data and community building, we’re creating a sustainable path for Michigan’s innovation ecosystem to thrive.”

The program is expected to launch in early 2026, with participation in VentureTrack offered at no cost to attendees, ensuring equitable access for early-career professionals and emerging fund managers across the state.

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About the Michigan Venture Capital Association (MVCA)

The Michigan Venture Capital Association is a nonprofit trade organization that advocates for and supports the growth of Michigan’s venture capital and startup community. MVCA’s 100+ members include venture capital firms, corporate investors, angel networks, and economic development organizations dedicated to advancing Michigan’s innovation economy. Through education, research, and advocacy, MVCA works to make Michigan the best place to start and grow a business.

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