

# 1ST YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



www.redwingignite.org

## our organization

Providing an innovative environment for businesses to thrive

Key Relationships have been formed with **>50 organizations** around the nation

Attended meetings and tradeshows from **Tampa to Silicon Valley**

**25+** # of collaboratives formed with **local, regional & national** orgs & individuals

**>20** # presentations delivered, including an invite to speak in Washington DC

**100+** community meetings hosted in our fully-equipped, high-tech meeting rooms

DESIGN BY FOCUS DESIGN

## our co-working space

Affordable professional workspace & supportive network for businesses & organizations



"The co-working space is a great spot for freelancers to meet clients, collaborate, and focus on work. A super fast internet connection and access to video conferencing make it easy to work remotely."

Kirsten Ford, art director & owner, Focus Design

## our accelerator

Providing vital resources to launch start-ups



How our **BUSINESS ACCELERATOR** is **UNIQUE FROM OTHERS** in the USA:

- > Early Stage Start Ups
- > National & Regional Networks
- > Market Validation
- > Product Validation



PURLEW

"The Red Wing Ignite Business Accelerator has been extremely beneficial. We've had access to investors, mentor and end users. They steer us in the proper direction, allow us to focus and provide support as we launch our beta in Red Wing."

Ross Crandall, co-founder Purlew

## # of Start Ups involved in Business Accelerator



## our events

Gathering creative, innovative entrepreneurs

### OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 2013

"It takes courage to step forward. Red Wing Ignite is the first in Minnesota, and one of the few pioneers in the country. I trust they will bring rewards to the city and people in the area."

Governor Dayton, at ribbon cutting



Two winning teams invited to **Silicon Valley** by US IGNITE

### RED HOT HACK

IGNITING INNOVATION TO ADVANCE THE WAY WE LIVE, LEARN & WORK

1st known **RURAL HACKATHON** in the Nation, April 2014

"For a small town, this has been a first-rate, phenomenal hack. It seems an improbable place for it, but with the HBC capability, Red Wing can absolutely be a high tech hub and people should know about it and take advantage of it."

Glenn Ricart, US Ignite founder & CTO Salt Lake City, UT



Quarterly **investor events** where

**13** startups have pitched to 30-35 investors from the region. **11** HAVE HAD FOLLOW UP MEETINGS.

### Monthly Meet-Ups

An opportunity to learn & network for members & non-members.

**Join us!**





Red Wing is known for its rich entrepreneurial history. Red Wing Ignite provides the spark that will propel the community into the future. **Red Wing Ignite provides an innovative environment for businesses to thrive.** We also highlight Red Wing's advanced technology and forward-thinking community as an attractive destination for creative, innovative people and businesses from all over the country. We help provide, advise and advance in ways that will make Red Wing an innovation epicenter.

## Top 10 Highlights of 2013:

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### 1. Unique Business Accelerator

Features that set Red Wing apart:

- Gigabit Connectivity
- Office Space
- Back Office Support
- Mentors
- Access to Seed Funding
- Business Curriculum
- Exposure to national market
- Deploy pilot in "real world" setting

### 2. Sharing Our Story

We have a great story to share with the nation. What a town our size is doing is very unique. We were requested to present about our efforts at national conferences and articles and blogs have been written from individuals around the nation. The word is getting out ... check out our website to see some of the articles [www.redwingignite.org](http://www.redwingignite.org).

### 3. Successful Implementation of Pilots

Our community is the perfect "real-life platform" for developers to test their product before deploying in the marketplace. Our community benefits from having the latest technology in the nation. We are currently testing a public safety and community connectivity product. We are working with developers from California to Montreal.

### 4. Investors Collaborate with our Accelerator

Red Wing Ignite is working with regional Angel Investors and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to provide seed money for start-up businesses. We hosted a successful event in October where four start-ups pitched to investors.

### 5. Built Relationships and Partnerships

It is critical to work with others to lay the groundwork to make Red Wing and Minnesota leaders in innovation. Together, we are elevating the conversation and setting up networks, events and partnerships to link resources and people.

### 6. Investment in Red Wing Ignite

We are grateful for the financial support of our donors. These organizations believe that investing in Red Wing Ignite now will benefit our community for years to come.

- City of Red Wing
- Housing Redevelopment Authority
- Red Wind Shoe Foundation
- Hiawatha Broadband Communication
- Jones Family Foundation
- Southern MN Initiative Foundation
- Xcel Energy
- Red Wing Area Fund

### 7. Ignite Building Sparks Collaboration

In this virtual world, we have an inspiring building that unites people. In addition to providing private offices and a co-working space, we host events and offer meeting rooms.

### 8. Launch of Red Wing Ignite

Governor Dayton and over 300 people joined us in celebrating our launch in August. The possibilities for innovation and our gigabit connectivity are endless, and we know Red Wing is the place where great things happen!

### 9. Infrastructure to Leap Forward

We have built a strong board of directors from around the region who have the knowledge and experience to move the organization forward. We also implemented a Community Advisory Panel comprised of leaders from various sectors of our community.

### 10. Red Wing Leveraged Opportunities

With our gigabit connectivity provided by Hiawatha Broadband Communication and the national partnership with US Ignite we knew we must act for our community to prosper economically into the future.

## Looking Forward to 2014

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The main focus in 2014 will be to expand our presence in Minnesota and the Nation. We will continue to build trust and relationships with developers, start-up businesses, potential investors that fund start-ups and organizations focused on innovation. Our unique business accelerator will be leveraged. Red Wing Ignite will continue to promote our community at events and meetings around the nation. In Red Wing, we plan to host quarterly investor events, a "Red Hot Hack" event in April and a contest in the fall with college students. Our long-term vision will take time. Yet, we are confident we are headed in the right direction and making progress each day.