

Highlights From The Year

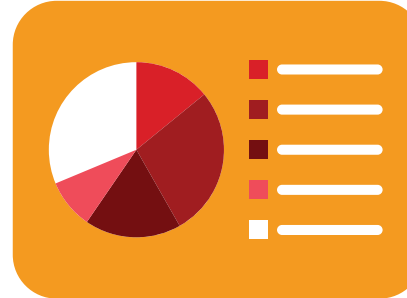
- ▼ Randii Waddell, Entrepreneur Coordinator, joined RWI Team
- ▼ 11th Annual MN Entrepreneur KickOff-Presenter-St. Paul
- ▼ Launch MN, Day at the Capital, Presenter-St. Paul
- ▼ MN DEED Launch Grant Awarded to RWI as the SE Hub Organization for E1 Collaborative
- ▼ Center or Rural Innovation Convening - Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- ▼ Awarded Xcel Energy Foundation Grant: Supporting Scalable Startups: Path to Pitch
- ▼ Submitted EDA Build to Scale Application
- ▼ EDA i6 Challenge Grant Completed 8/31/22
- ▼ Host Organization for University of Minnesota Extension: Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference with partner organizations
- ▼ Creating Conversations on the Challenges and Opportunities Facing Rural Economic Development-Panelist-Grand Rapids, Michigan
- ▼ Celebration of EDA i6 Challenge Grant hosted 10/18/22



“When I started with Red Wing Ignite I was challenged to think as a business not as a hobby. Yes I loved what I was doing. Yes I brought unique skills and talents to the market, but no I was not charging enough to make my business sustainable. I was challenged to think differently about pricing and opening to a national market. As a result I am “working smarter not harder” thus creating a better work life balance.”



2022 redwingignite Innovation to Reality Annual Report



Strategic Plan

In 2022, the Board of Directors, Executive Director, Staff, Contractors, Partners and Entrepreneurs provided feedback, insight and recommendations for the Strategic Plan.

Our Mission

Connect entrepreneurs and businesses with the resources to ignite, launch, and accelerate their ideas.

Our Vision

A place where rural innovations become a catalyst for tomorrow's economy.

Our Values

Be PASSIONATE

Entrepreneurs need advocates. We are champions of the client's work.

Be RELATIONAL

People come first. We seek to know them and their story.

Be INNOVATIVE

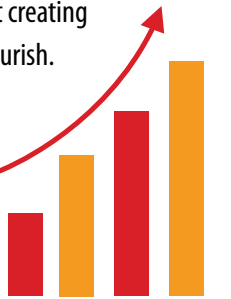
New ideas grow in spaces that embrace change. We are intentional about creating a space where great ideas can flourish.

Be TRUSTWORTHY

Dreams matter. We are a trusted partner in bringing them to life.

Be INCLUSIVE

All are welcome. We believe we are better when we celebrate our diversity.



Thank You To Our Funders



Build To Scale

On October 5, it was announced that Red Wing Ignite was **selected to receive the highly competitive U.S. Economic Development Administration Build to Scale Venture Challenge scale grant** and will be awarded \$4 million in federal grants and matching dollars to support local entrepreneurship and innovation.

Our team worked closely with the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) to apply for this grant. “The work that goes into the Rural Innovation Initiative process requires intense focus, unwavering optimism, and a clear vision for the future — which is why it’s been so exciting to watch these communities receive Build to Scale funding,” said Matt Dunne, Founder and Executive Director at the Center on Rural Innovation.

“We are so proud to have been awarded the Build to Scale funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration,” said Stacy Nimmo, Executive Director of Red Wing Ignite. “It’s a huge win for our region and we are excited for this opportunity to further ignite, launch, and accelerate entrepreneurial ideas and innovation in southeast Minnesota. With the \$4 million provided by the Venture Challenge grant and matching funds, we plan to launch the **Accelerating Rural Entrepreneurs in Southeast Minnesota** project, intended to help overcome geographic dispersal and barriers to entry through regional coordination, expand access to startup programs for rural and diverse founders, launch an accelerator to expedite the growth of scalable tech startups in the region and build a network for mentors and investors ready to help scale regional startups.” Red Wing Ignite is joined by the Jones Family Foundation, Goodhue County, City of Red Wing, Xcel Energy, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and others as local partners who provided funding for the community’s match portion of the grant.

Impact: By The Numbers

Served **275** entrepreneurs through the RWI doors, **174** were new users of our services

Hosted **47** workshops/events

Delivered **1,276** hours of educational programming to **549** attendees

Provided **105** entrepreneurs with **450** hours of 1:1 mentoring and coaching

Awarded **\$67,400** in technical assistance grant funding

50+ External Groups utilized Conference Room space

35+ Coworking Members, including drop in users



“ Ignite has filled a void in so many areas of my business...I never had realized how much they had to offer a small business just starting up such as mine. They have helped me with networking, making connections & supplying me with information on how to run my business better with all the different Events & Workshops. As well as helping me apply for grants that have helped me launch my first website (through the Technology Grant) and hire my first employee (through the Internship Grant). These were things I couldn't afford to do on my own and these grants & workshops have helped me beyond measure! The staff has also been amazing, helping wherever there's a need. ”

7th Annual Ignite Cup

On March 24th, 2022 babbl was awarded the First Place prize at the E1 Ignite Cup.

Ramsey Shaffer and Sam Cartford, co-founders, created a website that automatically detects insights and trends in stock market news, helping DIY investors gauge the mood of the markets instantaneously and do more with their time. The duo received a \$1,500 cash award from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and a semi-finalist seat in the MN Cup competition. They also took home the award for People's Choice.



Website: uptrends.ai

“ I have used RWI resources in a number of ways; such as attending classes i.e. how to write a business plan in a day, the entrepreneurial mindset, networking and private consultation. They helped review my business plan along with guiding me through all the steps. They also connected me to the MN SBDC where I have received a number of specialized consultations from experts in the field. Most all of this has been for free, which I find amazing! All of the assistance and resources have been incredibly valuable to me and my success. I like to learn and to do things right and RWI has helped me with that! This company is a gem and beneficial to new entrepreneurs and established ones! Thank you and well done!!! ”



2022 Youth Woodworking Camps

In 2022, RWI received Congressionally Directed Funding from Senator Tina Smith and Senator Amy Klobuchar to expand and deliver our Woodworking Camps, including purchasing new tools and equipment. Camps were also funded by a \$500 donation from the Red Wing Chapter of AAUW. Randii Waddell of SawRise, Katie Dunn, Jocelyn Lepinski and Chelsea Will of RW Youth Outreach provide instruction over the camp days.

24 kids learned basic engineering and construction concepts in a safe and fun environment, which included team building activities and a community give back project.

Learn & Earn

The 2022 Goodhue County Collaborative, L&E Cohort, toured five businesses as well as the City of Red Wing Public Works Department, rounding off a year of great placements and a few full time placements.

After four years of support from the MN Department of Labor and Industry, RWI began a campaign to sustain the program with our partners. Special thanks to Gemini Sign Products for kicking off our fundraising campaign and to contributing partners Lodermeiers, 3M Fall Protection, SCS Elevator, Red Wing Shoe, USG, and Xcel Energy as well as the GCED and Representative Barb Haley. Thus far 92 students have earned a college credit and OSHA 10 credential at Minnesota State College Southeast, with eight employer partners creating work site learning opportunities.



Youth Coding League

Thanks to Congressionally Directed funding from Senator Tina Smith and Senator Amy Klobuchar, we were able to pilot Youth Coding Leagues to 5th-8th graders in Goodhue County.

- 5 Schools
- 103 Students
- 6 Teams took home 7 prize categories in the Finals!

