

How can we best support startup businesses in our community? Spokane has a rich network of support service organizations ranging from [Startup Spokane](#) and [SP3NW](#) to the [Small Business Development Center](#) and [Ignite Northwest](#). Lots of great people working together to support everything from small local coffee shops to advanced manufacturing for the biosciences industry.

Startups and small businesses in Spokane will be getting a big boost with the Grand Re-Opening of the [Central Spokane Public Library](#) this July. Having recently toured the library, I am certain it will meet its objective of becoming a citywide hub for all things innovative, including business development.

Business Librarian, Mark Pond has led the charge around the development of an impressive ground floor business center consisting of 66 public computer stations, a 34-person maker studio, a reservable coworking space/Business Lab and conference rooms, 300- person event hall, and a large commons area serviced by a both bookstore and a coffee shop. It is exciting to see us join the list of growing innovation libraries around the world including Calgary, Stuttgart, Helsinki, Oslo, Berlin, Barcelona, Mexico City, Qinhuangdao, China and now, Spokane!

Juliet Sinisterra, CEO





Still unpacking at the new Business Lab, Central Spokane Public Library. Photo courtesy of Greater Spokane, Inc.

ADHD Toy for Adults wins NEC Competition – Traditional Business

Three years ago, the UD, in partnership with North Idaho Community College received a grant from the Herbert B. Jones Foundation. The resulting [Northwest Entrepreneur Competition \(NEC\)](#) recently awarded its third round of awards to emerging entrepreneurs from our region's higher ed institutions. [Stimagz](#) Founder, Kody Lukens, a student at Gonzaga University, won first place for the Traditional Business category.

Stimagz is a magnetic stimulation toy specifically designed to suit the needs of ADHD and/or autistic adults. As a child, Lukens had a set of magnetic construction toys he was naturally drawn to because of his ADHD. This set of toys inspired Lukens to create Stimagz.

The vast majority of fidget and stim toys currently available are created for children. Lukens worked to develop a device to meet a gap in the market. Lukens hopes that, "Stimagz will bring a sense of peace and focus to other ADHD and autistic people around the world."

After receiving the NEC Grant, Lukens will use the money to further develop the design for manufacturing. Lukens believes, "If something is worth doing it is worth doing right." Stimagz will be launching on Kickstarter as soon as possible.

Board Member Focus

Congratulations to Spokane
Community Colleges Chancellor and



UDDA Board Member, Christine Johnson, who was recently awarded CEO of the Year by the Washington State Association of College Trustees. The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in furthering the mission of community and technical colleges.

Says fellow UDDA Board Member, Alisha Benson, GSI, "Throughout Dr. Johnson's tenure...she has been a guiding force behind increasing opportunities for those seeking education and providing them with the skills necessary to drive our workforce."

Noteworthy Community Events



Josh Hobson – Almost A Mirror and Silly Heart Art Collective

Through June 25



Moving to Pollution Free Buildings (salsalabs.org)

June 28

The Lands Council and Climate

Saranac Art Projects June Exhibition presents, *Almost A Mirror*, new photographic works from lens-based artist Josh Hobson. Artists Posie and Avalon Kalin, from Silly Arts Collective, will exhibit works from their current collaborative arts project with their two daughters Lumina and Calliope.



East West Life Science Summit 2022

June 29-30

Annual conference meant to foster and strengthen the vibrant life science organizations, healthcare providers, and public institutions throughout Washington State.

Solutions will present on how to best heat and power your home and business.



Downtown Spokane Public Library Grand Opening

July 11

Event will be held at the northside entrance of Central Library off of Spokane Falls Blvd. New features include: Recording Studio | Video Studio | New Leaf Café | Inland Northwest Special Collections | River Rumpus Children's Playspace | KYRS Broadcasting | Computer Lab | Business Lab | Friends of the Library Bookstore | Social Stair | Meeting & Study Rooms | and, of course, Books, Magazines, & More!

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