

Eprenz Announces First Three Speakers for the Global Founders & Innovators Summit 2027

Navjot Sawhney, Drew Carrell and Jacques Benkoski will bring experience in social impact, business growth and venture capital to the May 12 and 13 virtual event.

October 19, 2026. Eprenz has announced the first three confirmed speakers for the Global Founders & Innovators Summit 2027, taking place online on May 12 and 13, 2027.

Navjot Sawhney, founder of The Washing Machine Project, Drew Carrell, a three-time founder and business growth strategist, and Jacques Benkoski, General Partner at U.S. Venture Partners, will join the two-day event.

The Summit, organized around the theme Build Value. Create Impact., brings together founders, business owners, investors and advisors to address the challenges of starting, growing and building valuable businesses. Social impact is also a dedicated part of the program.

The first three speakers bring different experiences to those discussions, from developing solutions for underserved communities to scaling companies and investing in emerging businesses.

Meet the first confirmed speakers

Navjot Sawhney

Founder of The Washing Machine Project

Navjot Sawhney joins the Summit's Social Impact track. His work began during a period in rural India, where he saw women spending hours washing clothes by hand. One woman, Divya, inspired him to develop a washing machine suitable for households without reliable electricity or running water.

The result was a manually operated washing machine designed to reduce the physical burden of laundry while using less water. According to Sawhney, the machine reduces washing time by up to 75 percent and water consumption by 50 percent.

The Washing Machine Project now operates across 15 countries, working with communities, schools, hospitals and refugee settlements. The organization aims to reach one million people by 2030.

Sawhney's experience brings the practical challenges of developing, funding and expanding social innovations into the Summit's discussions.

Drew Carrell

Founder of Leadzolo

Drew Carrell joins the Grow track, bringing experience in digital advertising, customer acquisition and business operations.

A three-time founder, Carrell has built businesses across digital marketing, lead generation and technology. During his career, he has managed more than \$150 million in advertising expenditure across digital platforms. In his initial meeting with Eprenz, Carrell also shared that his businesses had generated approximately \$40 million in B2B sales over four years.

His experience includes scaling marketing agencies to \$1 million in monthly revenue, developing lead distribution software, completing a business exit and preparing another company for sale.

Carrell's approach centers on understanding customer acquisition costs, lifetime value and the systems businesses need to generate consistent revenue. His background offers founders firsthand experience in making growth decisions and building businesses beyond their initial customer base.

Jacques Benkoski

General Partner at U.S. Venture Partners

Jacques Benkoski brings experience from both sides of the investment relationship, having led technology businesses and invested in startups.

As General Partner at U.S. Venture Partners, he focuses on technology investments, including enterprise software, cloud computing and cybersecurity. The venture capital firm has invested more than \$4.3 billion across over 500 startups.

Before entering venture capital, Benkoski served as President and CEO of Monterey Design Systems until its acquisition by Synopsys in 2004. His career also includes executive roles in technology companies and experience with acquisitions and public offerings.

Beyond investing, Benkoski works with entrepreneurs on market entry, customer selection and business positioning. His Market Entry Strategy framework has reached thousands of entrepreneurs through workshops and educational programs.

His participation brings an investor's perspective to the Summit, particularly for founders interested in funding, business value and preparing companies for future growth or exit.

About the Global Founders & Innovators Summit 2027

The Global Founders & Innovators Summit is a virtual entrepreneurship event organized by Eprez, a global community connecting more than 157,000 founders, business owners and innovators.

The 2027 program covers five dedicated tracks: Start, Grow, Profit, Exit and Social Impact. Sessions will address the decisions entrepreneurs face at different stages, including validating business ideas, attracting customers, improving financial performance, preparing for ownership transitions and creating measurable social impact.

The Summit also brings investors and advisors into these conversations, giving participants access to different perspectives on running, financing and developing businesses.

The previous Summit, held in January 2026, generated more than 3,000 registrations. Over 1,000 people attended live from more than 100 countries, with approximately 3,800 session attendances across the program.

The 2027 event will build on this experience with additional sessions, workshops, panels and networking opportunities before and during the main Summit.

Eprez will announce further speakers and program details in the coming months.

Event details

Event: Global Founders & Innovators Summit 2027 **Dates:** May 12 and 13, 2027 **Time:** Starting at 9:00 AM Eastern
Time Format: Online **Theme:** Build Value. Create Impact. **Registration:**
<https://event.eprenz.com/founders-innovators-summit/2027>

Registration for the virtual Summit is open, with free access available.

About Eprez

Eprez is a global entrepreneurship community of more than 157,000 founders, business owners and innovators. Through educational programs, events, professional connections and practical resources, Eprez supports entrepreneurs as they start, grow, profit and prepare for exit. The organization also supports entrepreneurs creating social and environmental impact through their work.

Learn more at <https://eprenz.com>.

Media contact

Diksha Sintury

Communications Manager, Global Founders & Innovators Summit 2027

Eprez

partnership@eprenz.com

Event page: event.eprenz.com/founders-innovators-summit/2027