Global Entrepreneurship Week is a celebration of innovators who dream big and launch startups that bring ideas to life. Each November, GEW reaches millions of people through local, national and global events and activities. From large-scale startup competitions and workshops to small, community discussions – GEW reaches new audiences and connects participants to a network that can help them take the next step, no matter where they are on their entrepreneurial journey.

In the U.S. alone, nearly 5,000 events are planned across all 50 states by a wide variety of organizations including: colleges and universities, entrepreneurial support organizations, government agencies, economic development groups and more.

Why do so many people celebrate GEW? Because it's a simple way to reach beyond your immediate network and connect with potential new partners, funders and members.

Help create a GEW celebration in your city by hosting an event. You can schedule an activity that celebrates, educates or connects entrepreneurs in your community between November 12-18, 2018.

To get started, visit genglobal.org/start and celebrate #GEW2018 with more than 10 million people around the world. You can also stay up-to-date by subscribing to the GEN newsletter or by following the conversation on social media.
WHY CELEBRATE?

Cities and countries around the world are competing in a ‘race to the top’ to promote entrepreneurial growth – with policymakers playing an important role in setting the rules and incentives to support the launch and growth of startups. Young firms less than five years old are one of the main producers of new jobs in the United States. And not only are these young firms the source of job creation, they also disrupt existing industries and push older firms and established corporations to remain innovative.

Entrepreneurs do three things – they advance innovation, they create jobs and they build wealth. GEW USA is an initiative that is accelerating the emergence of new high-growth firms by helping foster new communities of nascent entrepreneurs throughout the country. By encouraging the development of entrepreneurs in your community, you’re encouraging more innovation, more jobs and a stronger economic ecosystem.

HOW TO CELEBRATE

There are a number of ways that your local or state government offices and leaders can leverage GEW USA to connect with job creators and strengthen local, state and national entrepreneurship ecosystems – creating impact that continues long after GEW has ended. The first step is registering yourself or your agency office as a GEW USA partner and adding your activities at: https://genglobal.org/united-states

CELEBRATE LOCAL STARTUPS
Collaborate with local entrepreneurs and partners on activities during GEW – you can even conduct your own Town Hall to crowdsource ideas for encouraging job creation and economic growth. GEW is a great way for local government leaders or agency offices to raise their profile in the community and serve as an inspiration to others.

COMMUNICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW FIRMS
Integrate messages about the importance of new firms with job creation and economic growth – and encourage your constituents to participate in GEW USA activities – in your communications leading up to and during the Week. Send us a copy of your speeches, op-eds, press releases or statements of support, and we will push them out to our network of national and international members, as well as our partner organizations across the country.

LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVES
Announce the creation of new programs, fellowships, grants or other efforts to support entrepreneurship and economic growth. Planning a co-working space or accelerator for your community? Make the launch date or opening ceremony a part of your GEW celebrations.

CHAMPION EXISTING PROGRAMS
Raise awareness of ongoing local efforts to promote entrepreneurship and economic growth by highlighting their successes during GEW.

DEMONSTRATE POLICY LEADERSHIP
Announce your support for policy priorities related to America’s startups – or call attention to existing legislation or ordinances that support entrepreneurs. You can also host a Startup Nations Policy Dialogue in your community by inviting local, state and national officials together to discuss how public- and private-sector leaders can eliminate barriers so that anyone, anywhere can start their own business.

This is why Global Entrepreneurship Week is such an important effort for entrepreneurs in America, and the world over. This commendable initiative works to connect people from all backgrounds and all locations and support them as they start and scale a new business. I know an important topic of discussion throughout this event is the reality that many entrepreneurs are concentrated in clusters around major cities. I believe events like this can shine a light on this and help to develop solutions to bring better access and networks to entrepreneurs far outside of these few clusters.

SENATOR JAMES RISCH
Excerpt from a GEW 2017 statement of support from Sen. James Risch (Idaho), chairman of the U.S. Senate Small Business Committee
WHAT YOU CAN DO

Elected officials from every part of the political spectrum have tapped into the GEW USA network in a number of ways over the past few years:

IDAHO
Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter issued a proclamation, stating November 12-18, 2012 was to officially be recognized as Global Entrepreneurship Week in Idaho. [READ MORE]

Chairman of the U.S. Senate Small Business Committee, Sen. James Risch, R-Idaho, submitted a statement of support for Global Entrepreneurship Week 2017, focusing on the challenges of rural entrepreneurs and increasing support to ensure anyone, anywhere can have the same opportunities to start their own business. [READ MORE]

NEW JERSEY
Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, submitted a statement of support for GEW 2017 – in which he emphasized the need to remove barriers to entrepreneurship, especially for those Americans interested in starting small businesses. [READ MORE]

WASHINGTON
Former Washington state governor, Christine Gregoire, led a state-wide celebration of entrepreneurship and innovation during Global Entrepreneurship Week in 2012, sponsored and coordinated by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

MICHIGAN
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder served as the keynote speaker to Michigan Emerging, one of the featured activities of GEW USA in 2011.

TENNESSEE
Bill Haslam, governor of Tennessee, signed a proclamation recognizing Global Entrepreneurship Week in the state.

CALIFORNIA
More than 25 mayors in Southern California signed a proclamation declaring the week of November 12-18, 2018 as Global Entrepreneurship Week in their communities.

LOUISIANA
Former Governor Bobby Jindal signed a proclamation declaring Louisiana Entrepreneurship Week to coincide with GEW USA.

USA
Former President Barack Obama recognized Global Entrepreneurship Week and declared the month of November to be National Entrepreneurship Month in the United States.

District offices of the U.S. Small Business Administration have hosted a variety of workshops, lecture series and trainings for entrepreneurs in communities across the country – providing them with tools and valuable resources they need to start and scale their businesses.