

VIEW FROM THE TOP

TREETOP VENTURES NEWSLETTER

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Shout Out

When you have a vendor that excels in what they do, we think it is important to let friends know. We have several who have shown that they understand the issues of start-ups. Therefore, we feel it is appropriate to shout their praises to the masses.

D&O Insurance

Start-ups need to attract good board members who can help them navigate the troubled waters of financing, growth, cash flow, etc. Many times, the key item that prevents accomplished individuals from joining these boards is the lack of D&O insurance. We have found that John Bush understands the issues that start-ups face in this area. Contact John at jbush@npdodge.com.

Banking

Two local names stand out in our mind; Union Bank and Centennial Bank have both been good neighbors to start-ups. Steve Mitchell at Union and Kathryn Barker at Centennial Bank are both willing and able to help start-ups with their business banking issues. You can contact Steve at steve.mitchell@ubt.com and Kathryn at kbarker@cbomaha.com.

Legal

There are plenty of good law firms in Omaha but we feel that Erickson and Sederstrom leads the way in working with start-up companies. Virgil Johnson and his team (Bill Foley and Paul Heimann) support several of our companies and have been doing it for years. Contact these folks at vjohn@eslaw.com, bfole@eslaw.com and pheim@eslaw.com.

Hosted and Remote Managed Services

Although Scott Technology has pioneered working with start-ups in the local area, we also feel that First National Technology Solutions is working hard to understand the issues of start-ups and their needs. Long term contracts without any flexibility are hard for start-ups to sign and both of these companies understand that and work with start-ups to get the right relationship for long term success for each. Contact Ken Moreano or Kim Whittaker respectively at kmoreano@scott-technology.com and kwhittaker@fnst.com.

If you are looking for references regarding accounting, other insurance needs, payroll providers, furniture or other items, don't hesitate to contact us as we might have contacts in these areas that understand and can help.

– Treetop Staff

Angels Fly In Nebraska

The Nebraska Angel Investment Tax Credit is a win-win program. A minimum investment of \$25,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for investment funds in high-tech and other startup enterprises in Nebraska, gives a direct and refundable tax credit off of state income tax. Critical capital is raised for technology-focused companies in our state and that means growth and jobs.

Currently the fund is capped at \$3 million annually. Encouraging state legislatures to increase this fund would give wings to more qualified companies and opportunity to investors.

Link In Log

Our own William Fisher was interviewed not too long ago by American Bankers Magazine. In case you missed the article, you can [**read it here**](#).

SBA has launched a [**learning center**](#) to help small business. It looks to be a very rich source of information about starting a business and managing it. There is information about loans and grants as well as government contracts. Click into online training and videos and do an analysis to see how your business stacks up.

This is an astounding link! Find out what labor employment laws apply to your business. The [**elaws advisor link**](#) simulates the interaction you might have with an employment law expert based on typical questions you might have in your current situation.