



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**

Anne Barth  
Executive Director, Tech Connect  
(304) 444-2918

**TechConnectWV to host forum on “Creating Jobs in the Innovation Economy” Tuesday at 1:30pm in the House Chamber, WV Capitol**

**CHARLESTON** – (January 20, 2012) – TechConnectWV, in conjunction with Industries of the Future – West Virginia (IOF-WV), will host a panel forum promoting business innovation, entrepreneurship and job growth in the House Chamber of the West Virginia Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Anne Barth, executive director of TechConnect, explained: “We are hosting this panel discussion with four West Virginia business leaders who will share their experience and ideas on how to create jobs in the innovation economy.”

The panelists include Robert C. Orndorff, Jr., Managing Director, WV and E&P Local Affairs, Dominion Resources; Derek Gregg, CEO; Vandalia Research, Inc.; John S. Hooks, Jr., Director, CSC Identity Labs; and Leonard Dolhert, CEO, Aither Chemicals, LLC.

Ms. Barth, who will moderate the discussion, noted that each of the panelists represent one of the four focus areas of TechConnectWV, which are advanced energy, chemicals & advanced materials, biometrics, and bioscience.

“Discussion will focus on the challenges and opportunities the presenters faced in growing their businesses, and the strategies the State of West Virginia can pursue to provide incentives for economic growth and business start-ups, she noted.

Media coverage is encouraged.

**-30-**

*TechConnectWV is a statewide economic development organization dedicated to fostering and promoting innovation-based businesses and entrepreneurial activities across West Virginia. TechConnectWV encompasses a coalition of professionals working to grow and diversify West Virginia’s economy through innovation-based economic development. With members representing education and research, private industry, and the public sector, the organization serves as a forum and facilitator to enhance awareness, spur collaboration, and raise the discussion of issues needed to strengthen the state’s innovation ecosystem.*