

CSIA BoF Session: Women and VCs: A Marriage in Heaven or Hell?

Su Hawk
President, CSIA
16255 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202
303.592.4068
su@coloradosoftware.org

Barbara T. Bauer
President, GlobalSight Partners
338 Clayton St., #3
Denver, CO 80206
303.333.9439
bauerbt@mac.com

ABSTRACT

According to the February 2008 issue of ColoradoBiz magazine, “less than 5 percent of technology companies are founded by women, according to the Boulder-based National Center for Women & Information Technology.” Join us for a lively dialogue and results-oriented conversation about this situation and what issues and perceptions need to be changed.

Keywords

VC, women, entrepreneurs, solutions

1. INTRODUCTION

Colorado and the western region are home to thousands of small companies, many of them software, hardware or technology services. All of them rely on information technology. Women are underrepresented and underserved by the venture capital groups in the region. What are the causes and solutions to help women succeed in created and growing their businesses?

There are several organizations that support women in technology, including NCWIT itself, but none of these organizations to date has effectively changed the access to and amount of total funding invested in women owned or managed technology businesses. Participants in this Birds of a Feather session will hear the current data and metrics on VC funding in Colorado for women business owners from Su Hawk, the President of the Colorado Technology Association, Barbara Bauer, the President of GlobalSight Partners, a consulting firm supporting the micro-multinational tech firms, and several other women business owners who have succeeded at cracking the barriers to get funding. Also, on the panel will be executives from VC firms discussing their perspective on the current status and how women entrepreneurs can improve their odds at acquiring funding.