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West Coast venture capitalist to be speaker for Great Plains conference

BY JERRY SIEBENMARK
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A West Coast venture capitalist will be the keynote speaker at this fall's Great Plains Capital Conference.

Joe Poletto, a partner in Indie Ventures, a venture capital firm with offices in San Francisco and Seattle, will be the lunch speaker at the conference, which is the area's only capital conference that links investors with entrepreneurs.

The conference is slated for 11:15 a.m. Sept. 15 at the Wichita Marriott, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive. It is the conference's eighth year.

Trish Brasted, CEO of Wichita Technology Corp., GPCC's organizer, said she expects another strong showing of investors.

"I think once again it will exceed any prior year," she said.

Brasted said angel investors from Alaska, California, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas will be coming to this year's conference, most for the first time.

That's a "function of the deals we're doing," she said.

Between 10 and 12 high-tech or bioscience companies will be selected to pitch their business to investors.

Brasted said the deadline for applications to present is Friday. Applications can be obtained at greatplainscc.com.

So far, the applications are from a mix of companies that have presented at GPCC before and those that have never presented, she said.

The main sponsors of the event are the Kansas Department of Commerce, national law firm Polsinelli Shughart, 360ideas and the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

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