



Accelerating entrepreneurial success.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Launch NY COO Lindsay Karas Stencel Wins Early Stage Dealmaker of the Year Award from Upstate Capital Association of New York

Entrepreneurs, investors, business leaders, & dealmakers gathered to celebrate accomplished leader of the most active seed fund in Upstate NY

Buffalo, N.Y., January 9, 2019 – Lindsay Karas Stencel, Chief Operating Officer and Fund Manager of Launch New York (Launch NY), Upstate New York’s first and only venture development organization that provides pro bono mentoring and capital access to high-growth potential startup businesses across Upstate New York, won Early Stage Dealmaker of the Year at the Annual Celebration & Awards ceremony hosted by the Upstate Capital Association of New York. Upstate Capital Association of NY is a nonprofit that helps increase access to capital for companies and deal flow for investors by connecting providers, lenders, professional advisors, entrepreneurs, and company executives who are making investments in companies across the state.

Held in Rochester last month, the third annual event celebrated New York’s investment ecosystem and highlighted the most prominent deals and most active dealmakers in seed, venture, private equity, and corporate finance. This regional recognition for Stencel celebrates her strategic vision and deep knowledge of the seed funding structure. In 2018, Stencel closed on 13 new investments and completed 11 follow-on investments. These companies have raised \$20MM on the \$1.6 MM invested by Launch NY, with over 120 unique co-investors. With these impressive results, Stencel clearly embraces the region’s startup deal flow, while most investors and funds locally and nationally steer their attention to companies who are more developed.

“Lindsay has a special appreciation for working with seed and early stage companies,” said Dr. Marnie LaVigne, President and CEO of Launch NY. “With over 1000 deals under her belt in her career, we are so fortunate as an organization and a region that she applied her passion and skills to fueling 35 companies through 53 transactions via the LaunchNY Seed Fund LLC since the fund started in 2016. We are honored that Lindsay’s amazing work is garnering recognition statewide.”

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Stencel earned her JD and MBA degrees from The Ohio State University, after completing her undergraduate work at Canisius College. Prior to joining Launch NY, she served as partner and chief legal counsel for an early stage venture fund in Ohio, focusing on deal structuring, compliance and portfolio management for two funds totaling over \$50 million.

Upstate Capital Association of New York received over 100 nominations for deals and dealmakers in seed, venture, private equity, and corporate finance. The awards recognized individuals, such as Stencel, and teams that build businesses and conduct transactions.

For more information about Launch NY, its programs, including its Investor Network, Seed Fund and other entrepreneurial opportunities, visit www.launchny.org, and follow Launch NY on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

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About Launch New York:

The mission of Launch New York, Inc. (Launch NY), the only U.S. Treasury-designated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) directly funding businesses in New York State, is to identify, support and invest in high-growth, high-impact companies, and catalyze the entrepreneurial culture in the 27 counties comprising the western half of Upstate New York. Launch NY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit venture development organization that promotes economic development through best practices, including business mentoring and access to seed capital in order to create investment-ready companies which have the promise to create significant economic impact and jobs for our region.

Launch NY uniquely fills the gap in connecting all of Upstate New York's entrepreneurship resources to a pathway to success via unique proof-of-concept capital and high-quality pro bono mentoring support through 22 experienced local entrepreneurs-in-residence and its National Mentor Network of 2,000 industry, business and investment experts. Launch NY was formed as a result of a collaboration between private and public stakeholders in Upstate New York to create long term strategies that foster a robust, self-sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystem built on regional collaboration. Launch NY is headquartered in Buffalo and has regional co-locations with partner organizations in Binghamton, Ithaca, Rochester, and Syracuse. It has served over 880 companies comprising more than 3,200 jobs since starting operations in 2012.

About Upstate Capital Association of New York:

Founded in 2003, Upstate Capital Association of New York's mission is to increase access to capital for companies and deal flow for investors across Upstate New York by connecting the investment community. Upstate Capital connects investors across the capital stack to opportunities across New York state and increase access to capital for companies and deal flow for investors by maintaining a robust statewide network, including capital providers, entrepreneurs, professional advisors and supporting organizations.

Through membership and events with content related to venture capital and private equity, the association connects, educates and celebrates the people building businesses in Upstate New York.

Upstate Capital is a 501c6 professional non-profit membership association.