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***Accelerating Food Entrepreneurs* Conference**

**Monday, November 16, 2015**

**Rutgers University, New Brunswick Campus, Student Center**

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, NETWORKING**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**

* *Lou Cooperhouse, Founder, RutgersX; Director, Rutgers Food Innovation Center*

**Opening Remarks**

* *Christopher Molloy, Ph.D., R.Ph., Senior Vice President, Rutgers University Office of Research and Economic Development*
* *Kellie LeDet, Regional Administrator, US Small Business Administration*
* *Douglas H. Fisher, Secretary, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, State of New Jersey*
* *Kim Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor, State of New Jersey*

9:45 a.m. **Pitch Presentations**

* First Field, *Theresa Viggiano and Patrick Leger*
* Jalma Farms, *Alma George*
* Hot Sauce 4 Good LLC, *Bob Ferretti*

10:25 a.m. **STRETCH BREAK**

10:40 a.m. **Pitch Presentations**

* Jin+Ja, *Reuben Canada*
* Brewla Bars, *Daniel Dengrove*
* Chia Star, *Sara Erb*

11:20 a.m. **Trends in the Food Industry Marketplace**

Hear from marketplace leaders about what’s hot and happening in the food industry. There will be lively dialogue as they share their unique perspectives on the current state of business and their predictions for the future.

*Panelists:*

* *Judith A. Spires, President & CEO, AG Supermarket Holdings (Kings and Balducci’s supermarket chain)*
* *Ron Tanner, Vice President, Specialty Foods Association*

*Moderated by: Diane Holtaway, Associate Director – Rutgers Food Innovation Center*

12:00 p.m. **BUFFET** **LUNCH, EXHIBIT HALL, NETWORKING**

Includes time to network, view exhibits, meet pitch presenters and sample their products.

1:15 p.m. **Pitch Presentations**

* Megas Yeeros, *Rob Carcich*
* Nutrasorb, *Ilya Raskin*
* DouxMatok, *Noam Gressel*

1:55 p.m. **Fundamentals of Funding: Raising Cash From Angel, Venture Capital, and Other Sources**

* *Kirstie Chadwick, CEO – International Business Innovation Association (InBIA)*

2:25 p.m. **STRETCH BREAK**

2:40 p.m. **Investor Roundtable: What are Investors Looking for?**

Hear from leading international experts about what investors look for in a startup or established food business. Investment in your food business may originate from a number of sources, including angel, venture capital, strategic, international, and local and crowdfunding sources. Representatives from these various organizations will share their story, and provide advice for food entrepreneurs on what makes for an appealing partnership.

*Panelists:*

* *Shen Tong, Founder and Managing Director Food-X*
* *John Dutton, Operating Partner, Arlon Group*
* *Jeff George, Vice President – Americas R&D, Campbell Soup Company*
* *Nadav Berger, Co-Founder and CEO, FoodLab Capital*
* *Kirstie Chadwick, CEO – International Business Innovation Association (InBIA)*

*Moderated by: Lou Cooperhouse*

3:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

* *Lou Cooperhouse*

The conference will end at approximately 4:00 p.m.