

# Press Release

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## **3rd Annual Central Valley Venture Forum Announced**

*Bob Grady, Managing Director, The Carlyle Group and  
Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Featured as Keynote Speakers*

Forum to Feature Policy Leaders and Angel/Venture Capital Experts

Organizers Target Local Growth Companies Seeking to Raise Capital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Fresno, CA.—Sept 18, 2008—The 3rd Annual Central Valley Venture Forum will feature Bob Grady, the San Francisco based Managing Director for The Carlyle Group, an \$89 billion private equity fund. Mr. Grady will be speaking about how private equity/venture capital can transform regional economies like the California Central Valley. Mr. Grady is the former head of the National Venture Capital Association and previously headed up mergers and acquisitions at Robertson Stephens, a San Francisco based investment bank. California Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi will provide the luncheon keynote and will talk about the economic downturn in the Central Valley and what role state government can play in assisting in the region's economic recovery. The event will also feature panel discussions on investment banking and how to raise equity capital, building world class companies in the Central Valley and what investment sectors in the Valley are ripe for investment over the next 5 years. The conference will be held Friday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the new Rex Phebus Veteran's Memorial Building in Clovis. A wine and cheese reception for conference attendees will be held immediately after the conference.

To obtain more information and to register in advance, please visit the Lyles Center website at [www.lylescenter.com](http://www.lylescenter.com).

- Advance registration is \$65, while on-site registration on the date of the event is \$75. Seating is limited, so early registration is highly advisable.
- The evening of Thursday, October 16, the Central Valley Business Incubator is hosting their annual stock exchange dinner.
- Tickets for both events can be purchased for \$100 and are available through the Lyles Center website. Pre-event interviews with speakers can be arranged through Fresno State. Please contact Nancy Kobata at 559.294.2045.

Organized by Fresno State's Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Central Valley Fund, the City of Clovis and the Central Valley Business Incubator, the conference is intended as an annual "must attend" event for local business executives, entrepreneurs, angel investors, venture capitalists, professional services providers, consultants, educators and civic

leaders. Event committee member Tim Stearns, Executive Director of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship said, “This conference provides Central Valley businesses direct access to leading venture capital and private equity professionals. Several companies from past conferences have received funding as a direct result of their attendance at previous events. Access to growth capital in the Valley has historically been very limited and we are thrilled to have investors of this caliber coming to the Valley.”

Initial confirmed sponsors of the Central Valley Venture Forum include the Central Valley Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, Central Valley Community Bank, Bank of the Sierra, United Security Bank, Lance Kashian and Co, Walter Wilhelm Law Group, US Bank, Hamilton Lane and Key Bank. Organizations interested in becoming sponsors of the event should contact Brad Tribsch, Central Valley Fund at 925.899.2440.

In addition to keynote speakers and presentations by local businesses, the conference will feature panels representing many of Northern California’s angel investor groups and venture capital funds, including:

- Tony Oliviera, Chairman, CalPERS Finance Committee
- Randy Williams, Founder and CEO of the Bay Area based Keiretsu Forum with over 300 Northern California investors
- Dan Stromberg, GESD Capital
- Perry DeLuca, Key Capital Markets
- Ed McNulty and Brad Tribsch, Central Valley Fund
- Lon Hatimaya, Navigant Consulting
- Paul Yett, Hamilton Lane
- Brian Kerester, Glaucon Capital
- David Blumberg, Blumberg Capital
- Rick Ramirez, Ramirez and Assoc.

### *Entrepreneur Showcase—Up to 5 Central Valley Businesses to be Featured!*

Up to five Central Valley businesses will be selected to present to panels of investors that are actively seeking investment opportunities. All presenters will receive pre-event coaching on their business plan executive summaries and power point presentations. The investor panelists will select a “Best of Show” entrepreneur based on the quality of the business plan presentation and investment potential of the company. Businesses interested in presenting can either be

mature, expanding businesses—or start-up innovation-based ventures. To apply to be a presenter, entrepreneurs must submit up to a 3-page executive summary to Craig Scharton, Central Valley Business Incubator, Ph. 559.292.9033 or [craig@cvbi.org](mailto:craig@cvbi.org). Initial cut-off date for submitting executive summaries is Friday, October 3 at 5 p.m..

“Our goal in hosting this forum is to showcase the very best growth companies in the Valley, and to demonstrate they are great candidates for private equity investment,” said Brad Tribsch, a partner in the Central Valley Fund. “This conference provides the only current venue in the south Valley for fast-growth potential businesses to demonstrate their capabilities, and a number of leading angel investor groups, venture capital funds, and commercial banking institutions will be using this event as an important measuring stick for what’s occurring in the Central Valley area.”

