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Burcham, TN Entrepreneurs Bringing Insights to D.C.

Jamie McGee

Michael Burcham, CEO of the Entrepreneur Center, and four other Tennessee entrepreneurs are heading to Washington, D.C., Tuesday to represent Startup Tennessee and share insights on innovation with the Obama administration.

Startup groups from nine other states and from Washington were invited to the Startup America Partnership event to share plans to further grow their entrepreneurial communities, and they will meet with the Small Business Administration, Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of Commerce officials, according to a release from the partnership. The meeting will take place in the Eisenhower Executive Office, neighboring the White House.

Startup Tennessee representatives include Burcham; Ryan Carter, owner of Parachute Media; Mitchell Evans, who runs Jumpstart Foundry operations; Sheldon Grizzle, founder of Chattanooga entrepreneurial hub CO.LAB; and Jayme Hoffman, a Jumpstart Foundry alumni who is launching video sharing startup Kiwi from Nashville.

Startup America is bringing in individual entrepreneurs to talk about what is happening on the ground in entrepreneurial centers across the U.S. and to recommend changes that could enhance their growth, said Caitlin Byrnes, spokeswoman for Startup America. Each group is asked to share a "game changer" that could help to spur startup growth and Burcham will speak for Startup Tennessee, she said.

"The goal is basically to connect the administration to startups around the country," she said. "We took a handful of regions across the country that are the most promising areas for startups and Tennessee is one of them."