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Contact: Gretchen Fauske

907.786.6295

gwfauske@alaska.edu

Sharp selected as first UA Global Entrepreneur in Residence

ANCHORAGE, AK—Nigel Sharp was selected as the first Global Entrepreneur in Residence (GEIR) at the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED). The GEIR program enables innovative entrepreneurs from around the world to choose the United States as the place to build their businesses and create jobs. In Alaska, the program is supported by Brad Feld, the Municipality of Anchorage 49 State Angel Fund, and the Johnston Family Foundation as well as the University of Alaska Anchorage Business Enterprise Institute (BEI).

“I’m excited to have Nigel join our team as our first GEIR,” said Christi Bell, CECd, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of BEI. “He brings a new point of view to the Alaska entrepreneurial ecosystem, and his experience working in multiple locations around the world will help us to better understand how businesses can launch successfully even when faced with challenges.”

A lifelong entrepreneur, Sharp is an experienced mentor, adviser, guest lecturer, and panelist. During his time at CED, he will be a resource for staff, students and faculty as well as the broader Alaskan entrepreneurial community. He will be responsible for launching new entrepreneurship development opportunities, will offer one-on-one mentoring sessions for startup founders, and advance the #GiveFirst concept.

Prior to joining CED, Sharp served as the University of Colorado Boulder GEIR, where he co-founded a University spin-out company which raised venture funding and was accepted into the Techstars business accelerator in 2017. In recent years, he co-founded software companies working on technologies ranging from voice recognition, gesture control to IT Network security. Sharp has spoken at TEDx, judged, mentored or organized 18 Hackathons/StartupWeekends, started businesses in six countries, and participated in four business acceleration programs. He holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Engineering from King's College London.

About the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED)

CED is a university-based partnership promoting economic diversity through entrepreneurship, community building, and action oriented strategy. CED is one of 52 University Centers designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and is a program of the UAA Business Enterprise Institute.

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