MAINE LIFE SCIENCES FOUNDERS FORUM

SHARING THE ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORT

Great companies grow more than products. They grow the people who build what comes next.



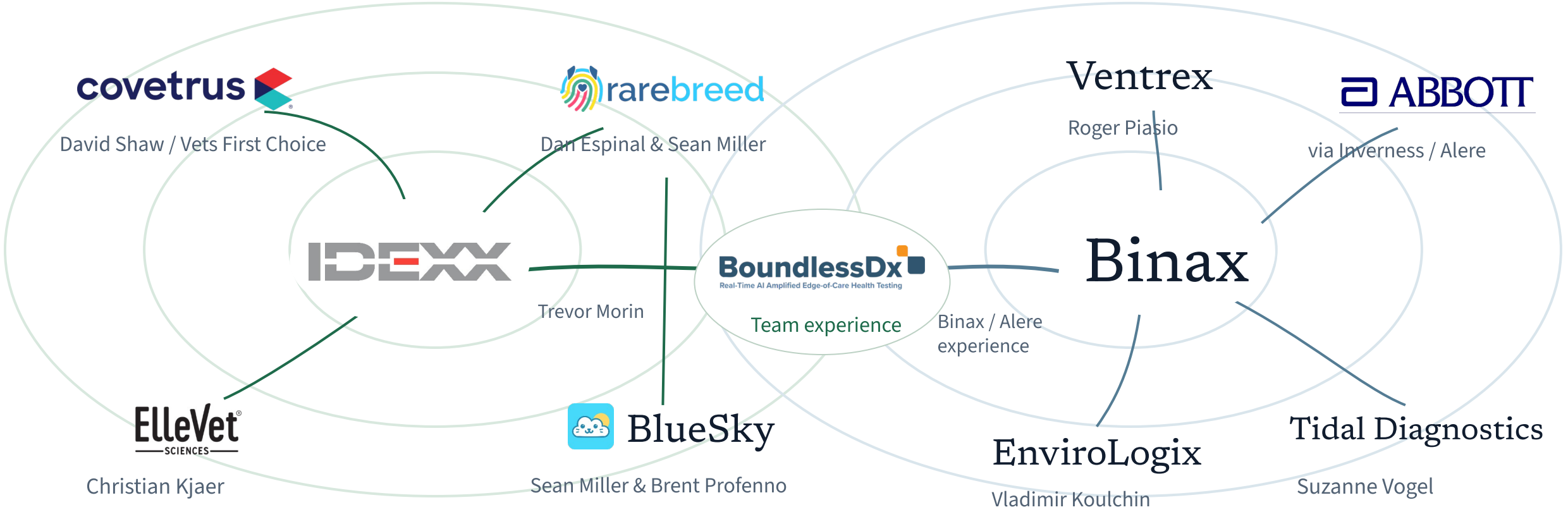
October 29, 2026
The Roux Institute

Owen McCarthy

Entrepreneur in Residence
Maine Technology Institute

McCarthy
LIFE SCIENCES

Maine companies set the next wave in motion



Who will create Maine's next ripple?

MY PART / Putney & Jean Hoffman → MedRhythms → MTI Entrepreneur in Residence

What would unlock your next move?

01 Capital

02 Customers & partners

03 Research & testing

04 Space & equipment

05 Talent

06 Advice & community

Maine's ecosystem of support

Capital

CVI CEI Ventures · mti Maine Technology Institute · FAME · Maine Venture Fund · Maine Angels · cei · DIRIGO LABS · The Roux Institute Northeastern University · CORSAIR

Customers & partners

The Roux Institute Northeastern University · MaineHealth · mitc Maine International Trade Center · BIOME Bioscience Association of Maine · The Jackson Laboratory · Northern Light Health · ABBOTT

Research & testing

The University of Maine · MaineHealth · The Jackson Laboratory · MDI Biological Laboratory · Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences · UNE University of New England · MAINE INBRE IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence · Downeast Institute · Bowdoin · GTCA GeneTyping Center of America · 25 MMQCI · analytichem your science enabled · bri · Woods End Laboratories · The Roux Institute Northeastern University · NIH National Institutes of Health · NSF

Space & equipment

The Roux Institute Northeastern University · You can make it here. TechPlace · UPSTART CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP · The University of Maine · University of Southern Maine · Hatch.Bio Labs · MDI Biological Laboratory · Downeast Institute · Bowdoin · Live & Work Maine · Think Tank Coworking · cloudport coworking · coworkHERS · PELOTON LABS · TPW · SoPoCoWorks · Freeport Werkes collaborative workspace · UNION + Co · MCW · Steel House · Belfast COWORKING · BRICKS · Rize · anchorspace · The Study COMMUNITY COWORKING · FACTORY3

Talent

The Roux Institute Northeastern University · The University of Maine · UNE University of New England · Maine's Community Colleges · Live & Work Maine · nexus MAINE · Maine Venture Fund

Advice & community

mti Maine Technology Institute · America's SBDC Maine · Maine Graduate & Professional Center University of Maine System · The Roux Institute Northeastern University · nexus MAINE · BIOME Bioscience Association of Maine · Startup Maine · Maine Tech & Startups · MAINE INBRE IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence · DIRIGO LABS · greenlight MAINE PRODUCTIONS · SCORE FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS · UPSTART CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP · Union River Center for Innovation · MAINEMEP · MAINE. Economic & Community Development · MAINE & CO. · cei · MAINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURS · The University of Maine · McCarthy LIFE SCIENCES

Explore the map and full inventory on the companion website

Maine Life Sciences Center



Different money for different milestones

Indicative fit across company stages. Bars are not eligibility rules or award commitments.

Maine Technology Institute	Idea & validation	Product & proof	Early customers	Growth & scale
Grants	$10–30k first grant / up to $100k cumulative			
MERC consulting	**50% of approved cost / up to $15k per year**			
Loans			Negotiated repayable funding	
Equity			Current portfolio + lead investor	
Maine Angels / Dirigo		Members + pooled angel capital		
Maine Venture Fund		Usually $100k initial check		
Maine Future Fund		Private capital alongside MVF		
CEI Ventures			≈ $100–200k / working estimate	
FAME Direct Loan		Usually below $500k		
CEI loans	Microloans through growth finance			

MTI grants require at least 1:1 match. The required cash portion rises with the funding tier.

Who fits your round?

INVESTOR / VEHICLE	CHECK OR BENCHMARK	FIT / CONDITION
MTI equity	**Negotiated**	Current portfolio. Committed lead investor required.
Maine Venture Fund	**$100k usual initial**	Seed / A. $250k–$5m revenue. At least 1:1 co-investment.
Maine Angels	**Member decisions**	Members invest individually. Current average unpublished.
Dirigo / Bangor funds	**≈ $120k historical mean**	Earlier pooled funds, 2014–25. Current terms may differ.
CEI Ventures	**≈ $100k–$200k***	Working estimate. Growth, exit case and community impact.
Maine Future Fund	**Alongside MVF**	Private capital alongside MVF. Current average unpublished.

Other private investors include Features Capital, Corsair Venture Partners and family offices

Selected examples only; investment mandates, availability and terms vary

Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit

Requirement	Individual / direct investor	FAME-qualified private venture fund
1. Company qualifies	For-profit Maine business; annual gross sales of $5m or less; active principal owner. Qualifying activity: manufacturing, advanced technology, value-added natural resources, certified visual media, or qualifying out-of-state sales.	
2. Investment qualifies	Cash invested for fixed assets, R&D or working capital. At risk for five years, with no secured repayment or owner guarantee. Business applies before funding. Investor/fund, ownership and affiliation rules also apply.	
3. How 40% works	$100,000 × 40% = $40,000 Nonrefundable tax credit	$100,000 × 40% = $40,000 Refundable tax credit to the fund
How received	25% of credit per year for four years: $10,000/year, limited to 50% of Maine tax due. Unused credit carries forward up to 15 years.	Refund payable to the qualifying fund. Fund files for refund in the calendar year after investment. MRS provides special filing instructions.

FAME qualification and a tax credit certificate are required. Standard investment caps and ongoing reporting apply.

Loans for your next stage of growth

The question shifts from technical promise to cash flow, repayment and security.

PROGRAM	PUBLISHED AMOUNT	WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT
MTI loan	**Negotiated**	Repayment evidence; current or new MTI companies. No public average stated.
FAME Direct Loan	**Usually < $500k**	Gap financing after other sources are exhausted. Up to $1m for qualifying public benefit.
CEI business loan	**Up to $1m**	Startup, working capital, equipment or expansion. Larger requests may be considered.
CEI Wicked Fast	**$15k / $30k caps**	Up to $15k for startups or $30k for existing businesses. A focused microloan.

Limits are not average checks. Loans require underwriting, repayment and agreement on terms.

SBIR & STTR funding, with MTI's TAP team

TAP

Technical Assistance Program for SBIR & STTR proposals

SBIR / Small Business Innovation Research

STTR / Small Business Technology Transfer

01 Check the fit

Take MTI's readiness assessment and identify the federal agency whose R&D priorities fit.

02 Build the proposal

Get free guidance on strategy, budgets, proposal writing and technical review. Eligibility applies.

03 Apply for SBIR or STTR

The federal agency makes the award. STTR requires a research-institution partner. Check the solicitation.



Clinical, research and market partners

Understand the care problem

MaineHealth

Clinical discovery

Northern Light Health

Healthcare innovation

Develop and test

The Roux Institute Northeastern University

Applied collaboration

The Jackson Laboratory

Models & preclinical services

Reach new markets

mitc Maine International Trade Center

International business

BIOME Bioscience Association of Maine

Industry connections

Start with the clinical, scientific or commercial question you need help answering



What do you need to prove?

A starting point	Imaging & analysis	Genomics & models	Marine & microbial	Prototyping
UMaine CORE	●	●		●
MaineHealth Institute for Research	●	●		
The Jackson Laboratory	●	●		
MDI Biological Laboratory	●	●		
Bigelow Laboratory		●	●	
Looma				●

Selected capabilities. Blank cells are not exclusions. Confirm project fit, external access and pricing.

A lab, a desk, a community

PORTLAND

BioCoLab

Shared lab / USM bench leases

BRUNSWICK

TechPlace

BioWorks shared BSL-2 lab

ORONO

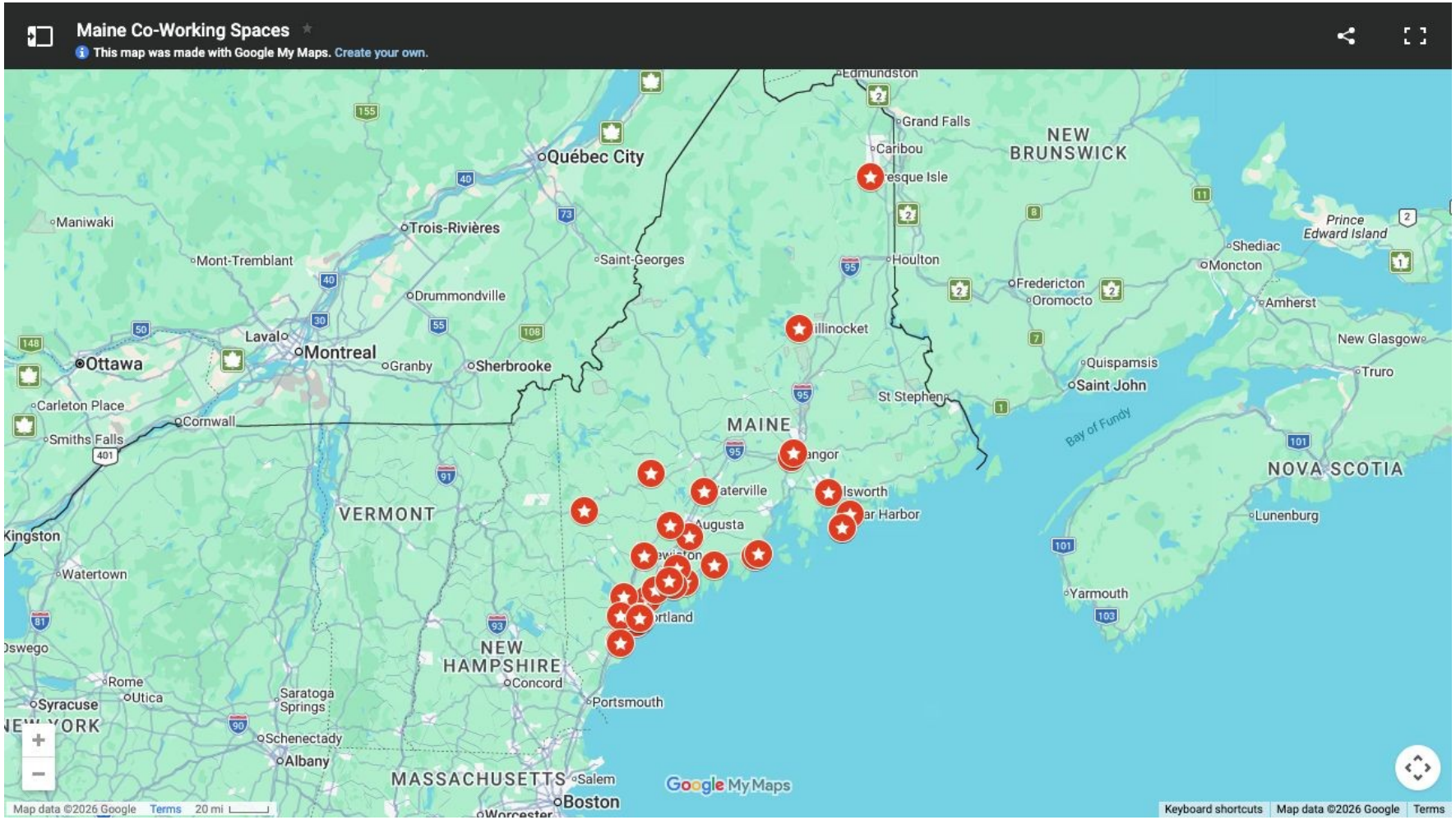
UpStart Center

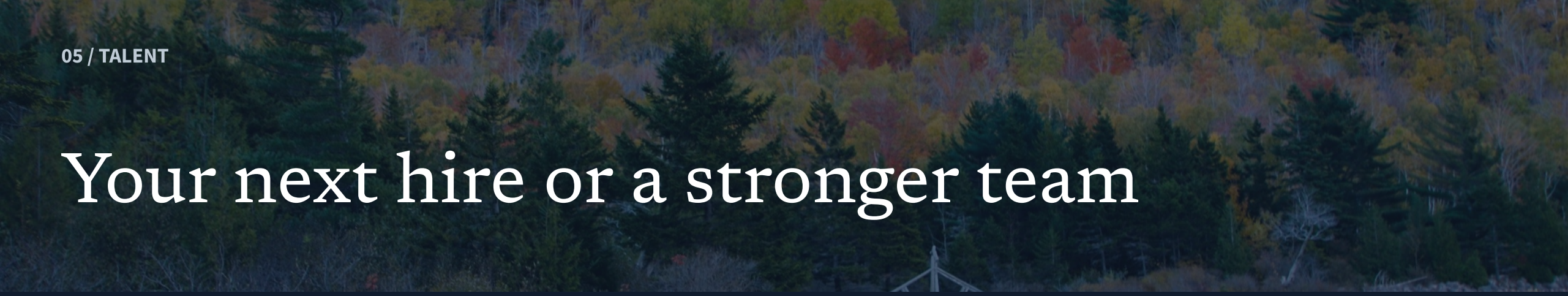
Office and wet-lab space

SHARED INSTRUMENTS

UMaine CORE

Equipment and technical services





Your next hire or a stronger team

A permanent role

Live + Work in Maine

Recruitment, employer visibility
and relocation support

A stronger team

Maine Community College System
Roux workforce learning

Training around the skills
your company needs

Maine's talent networks

A defined project

Roux co-ops & projects

Innovate for Maine Fellows

UNE internships

A scoped assignment and someone to supervise the work

JOB BOARDS & COMMUNITY

BioME
Life sciences

Live + Work in Maine
Statewide employers and talent

Maine Venture Fund
Portfolio-company roles

Nexus Maine
Startup and tech community

Startup Maine
Startup-company roles

Remote talent already lives here

~1 in 5

workers in the Greater Portland PACTS region worked from home

Who already lives here with the experience you need?

19% / ACS 2019–2023
PACTS Connect 2050

MERC

Expert help for a specific business challenge

50%

of approved consulting cost

Up to $15,000 per year
Eligibility and approval apply

EXAMPLE CONSULTING SCOPE

A regulatory roadmap

01 The question
What evidence will our product need?

02 The scope
A pathway and evidence-gap review

03 The deliverable
A written roadmap for the next study

People to keep around you

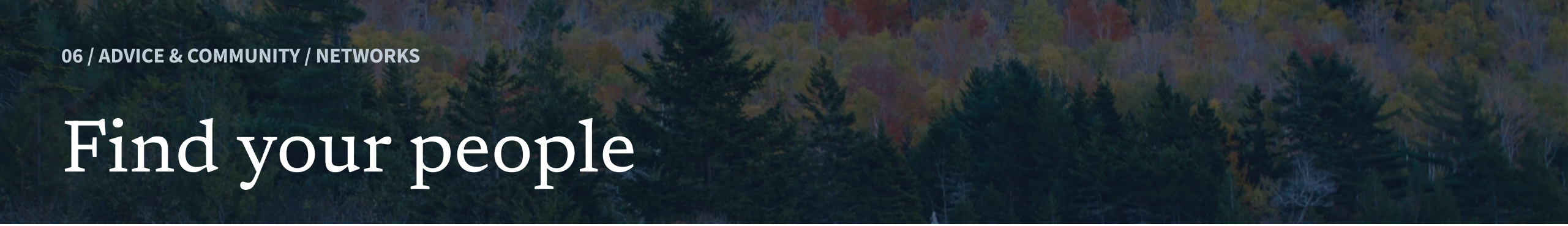
Maine SBDC

No-cost, confidential business advising

SCORE Maine

Free volunteer business mentoring

Top Gun · Maine Life Sciences Network · Nexus Maine · BioME



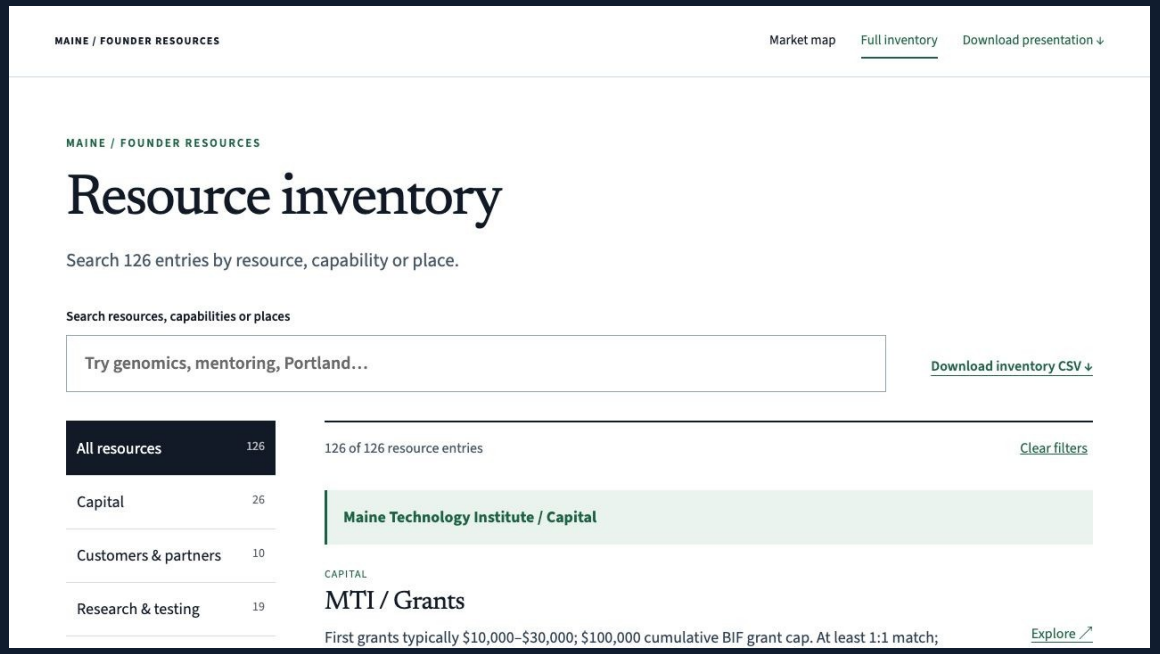
Find your people

The Roux Institute Northeastern University	Maine Life Sciences Network	A statewide community for sharing knowledge, research resources and opportunities.
nexus MAINE	Nexus Maine	A member directory, Slack community, events and a job network.
BIOME Bioscience Association of Maine	BioME	Industry connections among Maine's life science companies and researchers.
Startup Maine	Startup Maine	Founder events and a wider community of entrepreneurs, investors and supporters.

...and I missed a lot

The interactive market map and full resource inventory are online





Browse 127 resource entries by resource, capability or place

Market map / Full inventory / Download presentation