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Arboretum Ventures Receives Executive In Residence Award from the Michigan Venture Capital Association

ANN ARBOR, Michigan — The Michigan Venture Capital Association (MVCA) selected Arboretum Ventures as the recipient of the Executive In Residence (EIR) Program Award. Arboretum Ventures, a venture firm located in Ann Arbor, and their new EIR, Kristyn Aalto, will work together over the next year to create a new Michigan-based medical device company. The company will be led by Kris and financed by Arboretum Ventures.

The Executive In Residence Award Program is one of three Venture Upstart programs being implemented by the MVCA with the \$2.1 million dollars provided by Michigan's 21st Century Jobs Fund, administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (www.michiganadvantage.org). The intent of the Executive In Residence Award Program is to improve the number and quality of entrepreneurial management talent in Michigan by merging capital, talent and business ideas poised to succeed. With this program, the EIR is expected to become a part of a Michigan venture firm's team, where access to its operations and deal flow are present in order to identify venture-backable investment opportunities. Once an investment is made in a Michigan-based company, the EIR will then transition to being its Executive.

Arboretum Ventures, an Ann Arbor based venture capital firm, was founded in early 2002 and is managed by Jan Garfinkle and Tim Petersen. The firm is dedicated to investing in early-stage healthcare and life science companies. Arboretum specializes in medical device, diagnostic, healthcare service, and healthcare information technology companies. Although the firm invests across the United States, Arboretum has a special interest in investing in Michigan and the Midwest, with a track record of investing in Michigan-based companies.

Kristyn Aalto joined Arboretum in October of 2007. Kris is a medical device executive with 15 years industry experience working for such companies as Stryker Leibinger, Bard Access Systems and Inion, a venture-backed company focusing on surgical implants. Before joining Arboretum, Kris was Director of the Coulter Translational Research Program at the University of Michigan, a program aimed at advancing medical technology toward commercialization and clinical use. In this role, Kris coordinated the multifaceted activities necessary for developing university technology and intellectual property. Throughout her career, Kris has demonstrated success in product development, sales, marketing, quality assurance, regulatory affairs and general management. More specifically, her strengths encompass specialty orthopedics and biomaterials.

Together, Arboretum Ventures and Kris Aalto will work together to find an investment and create a Michigan-based company, with Kris as the leader. Jan Garfinkle, Arboretum's Founder and Managing Director, says "We are very excited about getting Kris integrated into Arboretum and have great confidence in Kris's ability to start a new company. It is a great opportunity to utilize Kris's orthopedic experience and network and merge them into Arboretum's investment activities."

Mary Campbell, MVCA President and Managing Director of EDF Ventures, says "The MVCA is pleased to support Arboretum and its selection of Kris Aalto as its EIR. This match-up perfectly exemplifies the dual goal of the program: helping to retain and recruit entrepreneurial management talent while strengthening the reach and the capabilities of Michigan's venture capital firms."

For more information on how to apply for the Executive In Residence Award, please visit the MVCA Spotlight at www.michiganvca.org or call 734-223-3750.

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