

## **CONNECT Adds Garrett Hale, Madelaine Holden and Ashley Strange to Program Team**

SAN DIEGO, California (February 4, 2010) – CONNECT, regarded as the world's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success, today announced that Garrett Hale, Madelaine Holden and Ashley Strange have joined the organization.

Hale is Staff to basketball Hall of Famer Bill Walton, the new Executive Chairman of CONNECT's Sport & Entertainment Innovators (SEI). Hale will work with Walton to build and spin-out SEI into a new independent trade organization supporting the growth of the San Diego sports industry and professionals sports teams. Prior to CONNECT, Hale was catering & sales manager for Woodfin Suite Hotel San Diego. He attended SMU in Dallas, Texas and graduated with a B.A. in Public Policy & Business Economics.

Holden is Program Assistant and will be providing event logistics support for the 330 events CONNECT holds each year, along with membership support for the San Diego MIT Enterprise Forum. The Forum is managed by CONNECT. Holden graduated from the University of Washington, with a B.A. in Communications and a minor in Political Science. She previously worked with Wellspring Family Services in Seattle.

Strange is Program Administrator and Editor of CONNECT's e-newsletter. She will be coordinating Connect with CONNECT and Deal Network and providing event logistics support for Venture Roundtable and SEI. Strange is currently finishing a double major in Political Science and Journalism through Excelsior College and will graduate in 2011. Prior to CONNECT she was with Comunicad in Arlington, VA.

The CONNECT Foundation and Association are non-profit organizations dedicated to creating and sustaining the growth of innovative technology and life science businesses in San Diego. Founded in 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 2,000 companies and is widely regarded as the world's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. The CONNECT Foundation focuses on research institution support, business creation and development, entrepreneurial learning, access to capital, awards, recognition and networking. The CONNECT Association focuses on public policy and advocacy. Almost 40 countries and regions have adopted the CONNECT model, including the U.K, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Australia, and China.

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Contact:

Ashley Strange

(858) 964-1330

[astrange@connect.org](mailto:astrange@connect.org)

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