

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES



Dissertation to Commercialization: turning a research project into a startup

Dr. Chistoph Krumm
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Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Lecture 2:30-3:20 p.m. | PAA A110

Reception 3:30-4:20 p.m. | Benson Lobby

Abstract

Many of today's best ideas and technologies emerge from university settings, with students developing solutions that benefit global health, the environment, and our society. As large corporations reduce R&D output, the academic work and in-depth expertise in disciplines like chemical engineering has become critical to high-tech development. As a result, increasing numbers of scientists are turning toward business and entrepreneurship to commercialize their own ideas. In my journey to start Sironix Renewables, I transitioned from a role as a laboratory researcher to that of a startup founder, where I learned how to grow a business, finance a startup, and commercialize technology. In this talk, I'll share my career path, how I learned enough to start a business, and how technology commercialization provided a rewarding outlet to realize the impact of my scientific work.

Bio

Christoph is co-founder and CEO of Sironix Renewables, a Seattle-based startup developing greener, safer, and more effective ingredients for cleaning products. Having translated his graduate school research into a startup, he has led Sironix to develop new eco-friendly chemical technologies, to partner with consumer cleaning product companies, and to earn over \$4.5 MM in research grant funding. He was recently named to the Grist 50 fixers list and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Top 35 Under 35 for innovation. Christoph earned his PhD from the University of Minnesota and bachelors from the University of Washington, both in chemical engineering. His previous graduate research in renewable energy and fuels combined with his R&D at Sironix Renewables has resulted publications, patents, and another startup company. Christoph has a passion for developing technologies that benefit people and our environment. Outside of work he enjoys cycling, woodworking, and snowshoeing..