PERFECT PAIRINGS FUNDRAISER COMBINES EMERGING ENTREPRENEURS WITH TEQUILA TASTING AND A FOUR-COURSE MEXICAN DINNER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[**March 28, 2024, Akron, Ohio**] Bounce Innovation Hub's annual "Perfect Pairings" fundraiser will occur at their headquarters on Friday, June 7, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. This year, the special fundraiser event brings together the community and business leaders for a night of networking, exhibits, and special presentations, with the "perfect pairing" of a four-course Mexican dinner with world-class tequila samplings. Bounce Chief Executive Officer Jessica Sublett will also provide an update on the 2nd-floor expansion of Bounce's "Generator" and other ongoing initiatives.

The theme for this year's Perfect Pairings event is a twist on "Tequila and Tacos." The theme will be "Tequila…and more Tequila, plus a Four-course Gourmet Mexican meal! The theme captures the entrepreneurial spirit of doing things differently and creatively.

The "Perfect Pairings" fundraiser allows local businesses and community leaders to financially support the Bounce Innovation Hub in fostering emerging companies and innovation by providing connections, resources, and expertise to build a vibrant entrepreneurial community. Fundraisers, private donations, and grants enable Bounce to achieve its mission with high-quality results.

According to Bounce Chief Executive Officer Jessica Sublett, the Perfect Pairings fundraiser fits naturally with the entrepreneurial experience, "*We believe that when you pair established businesses and community leaders with new startup companies, the results often lead to innovative new products, creative solutions, increased awareness and more importantly, economic growth within the region*."

The focus of the fundraising event will be the tequila tastings paired with the four-course Mexican dinner. Luis Escudero Muniz, owner of Akron's El Patron restaurant, will perform double duty for the annual Bounce Innovation Hub fundraiser as both the host of the tequila tastings and the chef for the four-course dinner. First, he and his staff will prepare a four-course meal for attendees that includes Hors d'oeuvres, Mango Seafood Ceviche, Enchiladas with Mole, Fajita, Rice, and Beans, plus Flight of Flan for dessert.

Additionally, Luis has hand-selected four prominent tequila vendors. He will lead attendees on a tour of the history and tradition of tequila and explain the different tequila brands and how they pair "perfectly" with each course of the meal. Throughout the evening, attendees can sample various tequila brands and purchase them to take home after the fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the mission of the Bounce Innovation Hub.

Bounce Innovation Hub was founded in January 2018 and serves northeast Ohio entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses. Located in downtown Akron, the nonprofit organization comprises over 300,000 square feet and nine stories in one of the former Goodrich buildings. Bounce Innovation Hub offers an

entrepreneurial experience that is unique to Northeast Ohio. In the Hub, clients can network, collaborate, and attend events that foster innovation, strong business relationships, and startup success. The Hub has tech startups, small businesses, creative organizations, coworking spaces, private offices, lab spaces, event, and meeting spaces.

Tickets for the Perfect Pairings fundraiser are available online at bouncehub.org and are $125 per ticket or $200 for a "perfect pair" of tickets. The event will occur on Friday, June 7, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Bounce's headquarters at 526 S Main St., Akron, Ohio 44313.

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For more information or media inquiries, contact:

Rod Flauhaus
Sr. Director of Marketing and Communications
Bounce Innovation Hub
rflauhaus@bouncehub.org
216.272.7776