

## **Company Background**

RIoT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) economic development organization based in Raleigh, North Carolina. RIoT leads a community of more than 9,000 members and 80+ participating companies, municipalities and academic institutions. RIoT produced more than 90 conferences, workshops and educational seminars in 2019. RIoT supports industry of all sizes through an equity-free accelerator program, access to labs and equipment and expert technical and business mentoring. Since 2014, startups who have worked with RIoT have collectively created more than 725 jobs and raised \$392M in capital. RIoT has chapters in 6 cities across North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Colorado.

RIoT is part of the Wireless Research Center - a world-class engineering services, research and wireless testing facility located in Wake Forest, North Carolina. To learn more about the Wireless Research Center, please visit here: <https://wrc-nc.org/>

## **Team Bios**

For all of RIoT's team bios, please visit here: <https://riot.org/about-riot/>

## **Noteworthy Press Coverage**

For all of RIoT's press coverage, please visit here: <https://riot.org/category/riot-in-the-news/>

## **Products/Services**

RIoT focuses on economic development by capturing emerging markets and accelerating startups - creating IoT opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.

*Events* - RIoT hosts events across the country with a dual focus on education and business development. These events are free and open to the public, with the goal of convening organizations to talk about disruptive tech. Check out the recordings from RIoT's virtual events on our YouTube Channel.

*RIoT ED* - RIoT hosts educational sessions about IoT, business, and the data economy—how to adapt, how to scale, and how to capture the market. RIoT's Lunch & Learn series is offered up to 9 times a month, across Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte, Boulder, Stafford, and Atlanta. In response to the Covid-19 crisis, RIoT updated the series to a Virtual Lunch & Learn series.

*RIoT Labs* - RIoT Labs is a hardware, wireless and software prototyping lab with all the tools for full-stack, proof-of-concept prototyping. Whether designing and building circuit boards, testing electronics, connecting to wireless networks or analyzing and visualizing data, all the tools a startup company might need are available in RIoT Labs. Beyond a physical lab, RIoT Labs also connects entrepreneurs to our industry, government, and university network through educational programming and colocated office space.

*RIoT Accelerator Program (RAP)* - RAP is a 12-week intensive accelerator program serving early and growth stage companies and corporate innovation teams. The program operates in multiple RIoT Labs locations, several times per year. Uniquely, RIoT does not take an equity stake in startups supported in RAP, nor do we ever own Intellectual Property developed. Teams accepted into the program are granted 6 months free access to RIoT Labs and a 1 year sponsorship of RIoT for free access to services across our entire portfolio.

*RIoT Studios* - RIoT's podcast features quick interviews with innovators and industry experts who are changing the world with disruptive technologies. You may find the RIoT Podcast on Spotify, Google Play, iTunes, and more.

## History

RIoT was founded as a Meetup group in 2014 by Matthew Davis and Larry Steffann before rolling into the Wireless Research Center's existing nonprofit later that year. WRC was founded originally in 2010.

RIoT's initial mission was to be a gathering place for Internet of Things enthusiasts who wanted to establish North Carolina as a global center for IoT innovation, education, and networking. Davis stepped down from his role with RIoT in 2015 to focus more time on Reveal Mobile, an IoT startup. Steffann continued to lead the organization until his death in 2018. Tom Snyder had supported RIoT in a volunteer capacity from the beginning, coming on board full time as Executive Director in early 2016. Tom continues to lead the organization today.

RIoT shifted from an event and advising-only organization with the launch of RIoT Labs in 2017. From 2014-2017, RIoT supported ~40 companies that went on to collectively raise over \$275M and create more than 400 jobs in NC. Recognizing the opportunity to leverage this momentum, the EDA awarded RIoT an economic development grant to launch a formal accelerator program in 2018. RAP facilitates a variety of entrepreneurial processes— from research commercialization to startup growth to corporate innovation projects.

RIoT launched a chapter in Charlotte, NC in 2017; Atlanta, GA in 2018 and Stafford, VA and Boulder, CO in 2020.

RIoT launched its first rural accelerator in 2020 in Wilson, NC with plans to expand RAP to Stafford, VA and Boulder, CO in 2021.

## Digital Artwork



**Contact Information**

For media and/or press inquiries, please contact RIoT's Marketing Specialist, Katherine Dupree, at [katherine@riot.org](mailto:katherine@riot.org).

**Social Media**

Website - <https://riot.org/>

Instagram - riotonsocial

Twitter - @RIoTonSocial

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nc-riot/>

YouTube - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iBxN4wH8t9xrVQSMrg0vw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iBxN4wH8t9xrVQSMrg0vw?view_as=subscriber)