



CHRISTINE KARSLAKE

VICE PRESIDENT
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Christine Karlsake is Vice President of St. Louis Economic Development Partnership's Innovation & Entrepreneurship division. She leads the organization's small business initiatives, which include STLventureWorks, Helix Center Biotech Incubator, the Helix Fund, Accelerate St. Louis, and Accelerate STLChallenge.

Karlsake has a distinguished career in innovation and entrepreneurship. She founded a pharmaceutical startup before joining Prolog Ventures as a venture partner/principal where she sourced investments, analyzed business plans, conducted due diligence, and invested in companies. Karlsake led the New Ventures group at Sigma-Aldrich, and managed portfolios of \$100-\$300 million for Monsanto. She has completed more than 40 buy-side and sell-side transactions including \$7 billion of acquisitions at Mallinckrodt.

Karlsake's broad background includes agriculture, nutrition, pharmaceuticals, genomics and other life science tools, clean tech, diagnostics, medical devices, chemicals, and life science IT. She is passionate about attracting strategic startups to St. Louis, making financially sound investments, mentoring companies, and helping them find successful exits.

About St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Established in 2013, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership brings together the economic development agencies from St. Louis County and City of St. Louis to drive growth, generate prosperity and catalyze investment throughout the region. The Partnership provides a broad range of services, including entrepreneurial support (financing and incubators), business expansion and retention, real estate and community development and international trade support through World Trade Center St. Louis.

Education:

- Purdue University
– Ph.D. in chemistry
- University of Chicago
– MBA in finance and strategy

Civic and Community Involvement:

- InvestMidwest - Selection Committee
- Arch Grants - Selection Committee
- Startup Mentor
- Prosper Accelerator - Investment Committee
- World Trade Center, Global Cities Initiative - Steering Committee
- StartUp Connection - Steering Committee
- Mosaic Project Immigrant Entrepreneur Supporter

Contact:

314.615.3958

ckarlsake@stlpartnership.com