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**NATIONALLY-KNOWN ECONOMIST, TECH VC AND PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTOR TO SPEAK AT INVEST SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE**

*Dr. Barry Asmus to keynote; Intel Capital's Scott Darling and New Vantage Group's John May to share industry insight at Arizona's premier capital conference*

Tempe, Arizona (January 4, 2007) – Invest Southwest ([www.investsouthwest.org](http://www.investsouthwest.org)), the region's premier growth-capital conference, today announced that noted economist [Dr. Barry Asmus](#) will be the keynote luncheon speaker at its first annual conference. [Scott Darling](#), vice president and managing director for Intel Capital, and [John May](#), managing partner of New Vantage Group, have also been named conference speakers. Darling and May will open the conference with a discussion on the trends in investing for venture capitalists.

The conference will be held at the Four Seasons Resort, Troon at North Scottsdale from February 21-22.

Named by *USA Today* as one of the five most requested speakers in the United States, Dr. Asmus is Senior Economist with the prestigious National Center for Policy Analysis. With over 25 years experience on the speaking platform, Dr. Asmus presents a powerful picture of America's future, both here and abroad. He will speak at the luncheon on February 22, 2007 from 11:30am to 1:15pm.

"Successful investing is more than a numbers game. It is the product of discipline and the opportunity to find reliable guidance among an abundance of information available today," said Dr. Asmus. "We will try to sort out unique demographic factors, tax implications, housing market conditions, energy prices, interest rates, and other relevant issues as a basis of evaluating 13 investment opportunities in the Southwest."

Darling and May will be speaking to investors from across the nation at the Investor Seminar, which will take place prior to the conference luncheon from 8:00am to 9:45am. Darling is responsible for Intel Capital's venture capital investments as well as the Business Development team for Intel's \$25 billion revenue Digital Enterprise Group.

"As a large global investor, we are delighted to exchange ideas with other VCs and entrepreneurs at the Invest Southwest Capital Conference," said Darling. "Intel Capital looks forward to seeing an even greater level of technology innovation from this region."

May is responsible for innovatively mobilizing private equity capital into early-stage companies, and has, over the last 20 years, been an advisor to, or general partner to, five early-stage venture funds, including UK-based Seraphim Capital.

"As regions all over the US realize that early stage venture capital and angel investing are fundamental to the long term survival of local economies in the global marketplace, the Southwest appears to be gaining momentum and increasing its share of high growth companies. It is none too soon!" said May.

General inquiries about the conference should be directed to ASU Technopolis at 480-727-9010. Investor registration information and additional conference details can be found at [www.InvestSouthwest.org](http://www.InvestSouthwest.org).



### **About Invest Southwest**

Invest Southwest is the region's premier growth-capital conference. For over 15 years, Invest Southwest (including its predecessors, Arizona Venture Capital Conference then Arizona Angel Investment Conference) has long been the best way for investors to connect with the Southwest's most promising ventures. The forum takes place on February 22, 2007 at the Four Seasons Resort, Troon at North Scottsdale where 13 up-and-coming companies present their plans and financing opportunities to an audience of 100+ investors. Visit [www.investsouthwest.org](http://www.investsouthwest.org) for more information.

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