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Apparently, [James Barrood](#) always says that the [#Innovate100](#) list only highlights the leaders—and the celebrations are what really builds the connections.

I'm a little late to the party, but it was epic! My next few weeks will be filled with the exciting feeling of expanding those momentary introductions that turn into relationships that keep compounding long after the photos are posted (more to come but I was more a prop than photographer last night 🐱)

James posted these words I want to echo as they are a great model for any community effort: This ecosystem moves forward when a few things happen consistently:

- Founders meet operators who can help scale
- Institutions collaborate with clear next steps
- Talent gets pulled into real opportunity
- Partners show up with resources, access, and follow-through

Thanks to partners:

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