Five Buffalo startups to watch in 2019

There is a lot to admiration in Buffalo's startup community these days. One such founder – a '30 under 30' honoree for the second consecutive year – is Kim Colpoys, co-founder and CEO of Tactiv8 Therapeutics. She's led the company to establish a foothold in the biotechnology industry and now is moving beyond the research lab into a commercialized production facility in Buffalo. Colpoys has been an active advocate for women in her industry, and her company's mission to commercialize the company's technology is tied to creating new opportunities for women in the biotech sector.

Like Colpoys, the five startups we'll be watching closely in the coming year are chosen to present a mix of different industries and stages of development. Some have already established themselves as major players in the local tech scene, while others are just starting their journey. The list includes companies from the technology, healthcare, and food and beverage industries, among others. Here are the five startups to watch in 2019:

Femi Secrets

Co-founded by CEO Danielle Jackson, Femi Secrets is a disruptor in the women's hygiene market. The company launched in 2015 with a mission to provide affordable, environmentally friendly menstrual products to women around the world. With a focus on sustainability and social impact, Femi Secrets has attracted significant attention and investment, including a $500,000 investment from 43North. Jackson has pivoted the company list year and has expanded its product line to include not only reusable underwear pads but also reusable cloth pads and other hygiene products.

RepHike

RepHike is a startup that is changing the world of social media marketing. Co-founded by COO Olivia Goldstein, CEO Shashank Roy, and CTO Abhishek Menon, RepHike has developed a unique platform that allows brands to engage with influencers and drive sales through social media. The company has grown rapidly, with a steady monthly revenue and steady upward trajectory. RepHike's leadership believes they can play a much bigger role in the marketing space and has its sights set on becoming a large-scale marketing company.

3AM

3AM is a startup that is innovating in the emergency response industry. Co-founded by Patrick O'Connor and Ryan Litt, 3AM's technology uses sensors to detect emergency situations and provide real-time alerts to first responders. With a team of 25 full-time employees and plans to hire 45 people in the coming year, 3AM is preparing for human trials. The company's co-founders believe that their technology has the potential to save lives and that they are just beginning to scratch the surface of its potential.