

Rebecca Fannin

Journalist, Author & Global Innovation Expert

Rebecca is a CNBC contributor, media entrepreneur and author of four books including her latest one, [Silicon Heartland: From Rust Belt to Tech Belt](#) (2023). Rebecca's forward-looking and resource-rich books (*Silicon Dragon*, *Startup Asia* and *Tech Titans of China*) have launched her as a commentator and public speaker. A guest on BBC, Bloomberg, Fox News, and NPR, and a quoted expert in the New York Times, she has spoken at SXSW, the Brookings Institution, Asia Society, Harvard, Yale, and Oxford.

A graduate of Ohio University Scripps School, Rebecca began her journalistic career at the *Dayton Journal Herald*. From Ohio to NYC and a reporter's job at Crain Communications and later to the hottest Silicon Valley publication, she then covered Asia's emerging markets and China's entrepreneurial boom. She became a Forbes columnist for 10 years, and wrote for *Harvard Business Review* and several thought leadership publications. In 2010, she formed [SiliconDragonVentures.com](#) as her own media and events group covering global innovation trends. At CNBC, she writes features and profiles innovators for the Disruptor 50 special report.

Rebecca grew up in Lancaster, Ohio, and now returns to her roots to unearth new innovation hubs developing throughout the Great Lakes and Appalachia, and transforming the regional economy from former "Flyover Country." For *Silicon Heartland*, Rebecca traveled 10,000 miles on a grass-roots reporting trip in her Honda Element to interview dozens of leaders – from mayors to founders to investors to business leaders and developers – at the forefront of this transition.