

Applicants sought for 3rd Start Up Challenge

Friday, December 3, 2010

The Manchester Young Professionals Network has launched its third annual MYPN NH Start Up Challenge, a statewide business plan competition designed to encourage entrepreneurship and social innovation.

Anyone with an idea can apply and e-mail a summary of a business plan to startup@mypn.org. Chosen applicants will receive a scholarship to attend next year's Stonyfield Farm Entrepreneurial Institute. Along with the scholarship, they also will receive guidance and support regarding important aspects of their business plan.

Ultimately, one winner will be chosen to receive a \$25,000 cash award and in-kind professional services and products donated by New Hampshire-area businesses to launch their business.

"The Start Up Challenge offers possibilities for anyone with entrepreneurial spirit," said E.J. Powers, chair of MYPN -- the state's first and largest young professional networking organization with over 3,000 members. "For those out of work and others who are employed but interested in shaping their own future, the Start Up Challenge offers an opportunity to take the first step in realizing their dream."

Since the contest's launch, MYPN has awarded over \$50,000 to New Hampshire start-ups.

The MYPN will begin accept applications through January 2011. On March 1, 2011, the organization will select up to six participants for the Stonyfield institute and participants' final business plans will be due on May 15, 2011.

Of the submitted business plans, two or three finalists will ultimately be chosen to present their business plan to the challenge judges, who will choose a winner based on the overall value proposition of the plan.

The winner will be recognized at a reception in June.

Public Service of New Hampshire is presenting sponsor of the MYPN New Hampshire Start Up Challenge. Other sponsors include FairPoint Communications, DYN Inc., Amoskeag Business Incubator, Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green and William Steele & Associates.

For more information, visit mypn.org/nh-start-up-challenge. -- NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS REVIEW