

2008 North of Boston Business Plan Competition



and Merrimack Valley Venture Forum

:: 2008 North of Boston Business Plan Competition ::

Designed to encourage growth companies to locate in Essex County and the Merrimack Valley Region.

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Special Thanks to the North Shore Technology Council

Formerly the North Shore Business Plan Competition

We're looking for growth businesses!

The North of Boston Business Plan Competition will showcase your business plan in front of our panel of **judges**, many of whom are **early stage investors**. Winners will be awarded **cash prizes** — \$10,000 first place, \$6,000 second place and \$4,000 third place. **All necessary information, including entry forms, is on our website at www.enterprisectr.org/bpc.**

Our goal?

To help businesses develop new products, new services, and new ideas that exhibit **vision**, business **acumen** and **innovation** on the North Shore.

What do you have to do to qualify?

Our requirements are very simple.

- **Only startups** (not yet operational) and **emerging businesses** (less than two years old) may apply
- Existing early stage businesses must be located in Essex County or commit to **locating on the North Shore or in the Merrimack Valley Region**
- If the plan is for a startup business, that business must commit to being **located on the North Shore or in the Merrimack Valley Region**
- Businesses with existing professional **venture investment are not eligible**
- Contestants shall have **no more than \$200,000 investment (exclusive of real estate) from outside sources other than professional venture capital**
- Business must have **plans to grow to at least 5 full time or FTE employees** within two years
- Your business idea must be **original work** that you'll be able to fully disclose

How do you enter?

Log on to our website, www.enterprisectr.org/bpc and download the entry forms. There you'll also discover valuable information about how to create a business plan, links to help you create one yourself and other important details about the competition. **Act Now! Business plan overviews are due no later than February 22, 2008 and final plans no later than March 28, 2008.** This is an incredible opportunity to launch that idea you've been thinking about or expand your North of Boston business.

All information is available on our website at www.enterprisectr.org/bpc

The 2008 North Shore Business Plan Competition is co-sponsored by:

- Beverly Chamber of Commerce
- Cape Ann Business Incubator
- Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce
- Creative Economy Association of the North Shore
- 128 Innovation Capital Group
- Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce
- Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce
- North Shore Chamber of Commerce
- Peabody Chamber of Commerce
- Salem Chamber of Commerce
- Bertolon School of Business, Salem State College
- Small Business Development Center at Salem State College

www.enterprisectr.org/bpc
entry forms and information on past winners

2008 North of Boston Business Plan Competition



2007 WINNERS

- First Most RE, LLC
Second Sential Corporation
Third Love, Jolan B.

2006 WINNERS

- Tie Apredica Speech Therapy Group, LLC
Second North Shore Nurse Practitioner Associates, LLC

2005 WINNERS

- First SemiNex, Inc.
Second BioPoint Solutions
Third Custom Medicine

Business Plan Competition Timetable

- February 7, 2008** Writing a Competitive Business Plan workshop for those interested in entering the 2008 BPC. Held by the Small Business Development Center at The Enterprise Center. 9:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- February 22, 2008** Plan overviews and entry forms are due
- March 28, 2008** Final Business Plans are due to the Enterprise Center no later than 5:00 p.m.
- April 16, 2008** Semifinalists announced
- April 23, 2008** Judges interview semifinalists and select finalists
- April 29, 2008** Finalists announced
- May 14, 2008** Public presentations at Central Campus Recital Hall, Salem State College, 71 Loring Ave., 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

128 Venture North

Are you an entrepreneur looking for investors? Are you an investor, manager or service provider looking for growth enterprises?

You are invited to attend **128 Venture North**, sponsored jointly by the Enterprise Center and the 128 Innovation Capital Group. This popular breakfast series is designed to **bring together investors and entrepreneurs** and will provide time for networking and a speaker. Visit www.enterprisectr.org for information on upcoming sessions.

Enterprise Center at Salem State College

The Enterprise Center at Salem State College is both a business incubator and a virtual center for entrepreneurs throughout Boston's North Shore at every stage of business development. The Enterprise Center leases office space to start up companies, offers free skill-building workshops to the public, and hosts numerous other programs including 128 Venture North Networking Breakfasts and an annual Business Plan Competition.

Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council

The Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization whose mission is to advance the economic interests of the entire Merrimack Valley region, from Greater Lowell to the sea. www.merrimackvalley.info

Merrimack Valley Venture Forum

The Merrimack Valley Venture Forum is an on-profit organization that facilitates business growth in the region's technology and scientific sectors by serving the needs of entrepreneurs, emerging and established companies, professional service providers, academia and investment community. www.mvvf.org