

2009 North of Boston
**Business Plan
Competition**



**Enterprise
Center**
AT | SALEM | STATE | COLLEGE

:: 2009 North of Boston Business Plan Competition ::

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

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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 Merrimack Valley, or commit to **locating on the North Shore or Merrimack Valley**
- If the plan is for a startup business, that business must commit to being **located on the North Shore or in the Merrimack Valley**
- 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 20, 2009 and final plans no later than March 26, 2009.

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

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entry forms and information on past winners

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

- Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Beverly Chamber of Commerce
- Cape Ann Business Incubator
- Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce
- Creative Economy Association of the North Shore
- 128 Innovation Capital Group
- Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce
- Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce
- Marblehead 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
- Salem State College Alumni Association

2009 North of Boston Business Plan Competition



2008 WINNERS

- First Differential Proteomics
- Second Flavrz
- Third Enterprise Home, LLC

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

**For details, see www.enterprisectr.org/bpc*

Business Plan Competition Timetable

- February 24, 2009** 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. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- February 20, 2009** Plan overviews and entry forms are due
- March 26, 2009** Final Business Plans are due to the Enterprise Center no later than 5:00 p.m.
- April 16, 2009** Semifinalists announced
- April 29, 2009** Judges interview semifinalists and select finalists
- May 1, 2009** Finalists announced
- May 13, 2009** Public presentations at Central Campus Recital Hall, Salem State College, 71 Loring Ave., Salem, MA 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

▶▶ www.enterprisectr.org/bpc ◀◀

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.

www.enterprisectr.org

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