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GBJ Staff

The Amazing Entrepreneur contest now calling for entries



Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Intelligent Systems have officially opened the second annual small business plan contest, **The Amazing Entrepreneur**. Designed to foster innovation and small business growth in Gwinnett and Metro Atlanta, the contest is now open for interested parties to submit their business plans for consideration.

The winning business of the competition will receive a prize package that includes: \$2,500 cash, a trip to Sage Software’s customer conference in Washington, D.C., a one-year Chamber membership, a one-year participation in the Chamber’s Gwinnett Business Institute program (\$180 value) and a consultation with an attorney from Arnall Golden Gregory (\$2500 value), among other prizes. For full contest details and rules go to [The Amazing Entrepreneur](#) official website. The winner will be announced at the April 2012 Gwinnett Chamber’s Pinnacle Awards.

“Gwinnett County is founded on small business. It’s what we do best,” said Charlotte Nash, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman. “This contest provides an opportunity to the business community to come together in an effort to strengthen the backbone of our community – the passion and dedication of entrepreneurs.”

The winner and finalists will be selected based on the quality of business plans submitted. Judges will include representatives from the local business community, as well as representatives from Partnership Gwinnett, Intelligent Systems and the SBDC.

“Our goal is to facilitate the success of start-ups and small business; we believe that this second annual contest supports our economic development efforts by providing grassroots support to local entrepreneurs,” said Mark Farmer, Director, Entrepreneurship & Information Services, with Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development.

Leland Strange, President of Intelligent Systems, commented, “This contest is designed to provide encouragement to start-ups and to promote entrepreneurship by highlighting the many new ventures – and their entrepreneur founders – that are thriving right here in Gwinnett

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County.”

“The SBDC works to help small business owners and entrepreneurial individuals find the resources essential to successful growth and development,” said Robert Andoh, Area Director at the SBDC. “This competition is a great way to encourage those with ideas and vision to put them on paper and potentially turn them into realities. We’re very excited about this second annual competition and believe that it will draw quality candidates to make the most of a very strong opportunity.”

For more information, interested parties are encouraged to visit the contest website, www.amazingentrepreneurcontest.com, and attend a Contestant Orientation meeting, to be held at Gwinnett’s Innovation Park on Nov. 30, 201, at 6 p.m. in Building F. To register for this free informative session, or for more information, email [Mark Farmer](mailto:Mark.Farmer@sbdcgwinnett.com) or call 678-584-2268 .

About Partnership Gwinnett

Partnership Gwinnett is Gwinnett’s economic and community development initiative. Led by the Gwinnett Chamber and a host of public and private partners, the initiative targets the retention and expansion of existing Gwinnett businesses in addition to the development of new business in five key market segments: Healthcare; Advanced Communications; Information Technology; Trade & Distribution; and Regional/Corporate Headquarters. The ultimate goal is to promote economic wealth & diversification, increase education and work force excellence, improve quality of life and heighten visibility through marketing and outreach programs for the entire Gwinnett community. For more information on Partnership Gwinnett, the internationally award-winning community and economic development initiative, please visit www.partnershipgwinnett.com.



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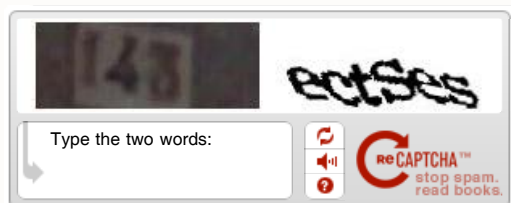
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