

## **\$10,000 IN CASH FOR WINNING ENTREPRENEURS**

### **San Joaquin Angels Seek Entries for Inaugural Entrepreneur Challenge**

(Stockton, Calif.)—A total of \$10,000 in cash and \$10,000 in professional services will be awarded to the two winning entrepreneurs when the San Joaquin Angels investment group, in collaboration with the San Joaquin Partnership, stages its inaugural Entrepreneur Challenge on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, and Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Professional services will include legal, accounting, and marketing assistance.

Entrepreneur Challenge organizers are seeking people with a great idea or start-up companies to publicly compete during two nights of competition for selection as the most persuasive business case. Audience and judges will select two finalists eligible for the cash prizes and an opportunity for further discussion with potential investors and advisors.

The Entrepreneur Challenge poses a four-step competitive process:

1. Business plans submitted online by February 19, 2010, will be reviewed by a screening committee of business and academic experts who will select the best businesses for the initial public round of competition.
2. On March 10, each selected contestant will participate in a two-minute drill to describe his or her business. The audience and a panel of judges will select several businesses to move on to the next stage.
3. On March 31, the remaining entrepreneurs will have five minutes to present a more detailed analysis of their businesses before the audience and a panel of judges selects several finalists eligible for the cash prizes.
4. Also at the March 31, event, each of the finalists will participate in a simulated challenging business situation. Audience and judges will then select the winner and runner-up. \_

Entrepreneurs from San Joaquin County and neighboring communities must apply online to compete in the Challenge at [www.sjchallenge.com](http://www.sjchallenge.com).

The San Joaquin Entrepreneur Challenge is part of a regional economic development strategy developed by the San Joaquin Partnership. The Challenge is being implemented in partnership with the San Joaquin Angels, University of the Pacific, San Joaquin Delta College Small Business Development Center, Business Council, Inc., and Golden Capital Network.

Cash sponsors of the event include Wells Fargo, Bank of Agriculture & Commerce, and Farmers & Merchants Bank. Additional in-kind services are being offered by Croce & Company Accountancy Corporation; Downey Brand, attorneys; and Judith Buethe Communications, marketing and public relations.

The March 10 and March 31 events will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Stockton Golf & Country Club, 3800 West Country Club Boulevard, Stockton, Calif. Members of the public are invited to attend for a cover charge for each event of \$10.00 prepaid or \$15.00 at the door.

San Joaquin Angel board member and investor Joe Johnson said, “We are sponsoring the Entrepreneur Challenge to make San Joaquin area entrepreneurs aware that capital is available for their businesses.”

Mark Plovnick, San Joaquin Angel President and University of the Pacific Director of Economic Development, stated the organization’s mission: “San Joaquin Angels is a private syndicate of accredited angel investors who share an ambition to collaboratively invest in, advise and grow promising companies in the San Joaquin region.”

Plovnick continued, “We anticipate that the San Joaquin Entrepreneur Challenge will help stimulate business development in our region by encouraging aspiring local entrepreneurs to pursue their goals through an entertaining business plan competition that offers mentoring, cash prizes and access to investors.”

The San Joaquin Delta College Small Business Development Center is available at (209) 954-5089 to help contestants develop their presentations.

For more information and to register to attend the events: [www.sjchallenge.com](http://www.sjchallenge.com)