



Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation

Newsrelease

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Seminar Set for College Students Interested in Business Plan Competition

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – The Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is sponsoring a special seminar for students interested in entering DCEDC's 2009 Business Plan Competition, scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009. Cash prizes will be awarded: First Prize - \$1,500; Second Prize - \$750; and Third Prize \$500.

The purpose of the Business Plan Competition is to encourage local talent and entrepreneurship among college undergraduates and graduate students in Dutchess County. The competition challenges the students to think about being entrepreneurs and requires that they submit a full-fledged business plan to be judged by local professionals. Three winners will be selected. Following their selection, they are invited to present their projects to the public and cash prizes are awarded.

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The informational seminar for competition entrants is titled **ON YOUR MARK! PREPARING FOR THE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION**. The seminar will be held at 6 P.M. on February 25, 2009 in the Main Conference Room of the office of DCEDC, 3 Neptune Road, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Leading the seminar will be John Moriarty, Certified Business Advisor with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Moriarty's topic will be "Writing a Business Plan."

Says Catherine A. Maloney, DCEDC's Director of Business Development, "The seminar will help students prepare to be successful in the Business Plan Competition. The competition is a part of our Business Development program because it promotes and encourages an innovative climate that spurs entrepreneurial investment in Dutchess County. "

The Business Plan Competition is great exposure for entrepreneurial students. Illustrating this is a phone call received by DCEDC in early February from an economic development group in Canton, Illinois. They had spotted the notice of the winners of the 2008 Business Plan Competition on the internet, and a winning plan submitted by Dominique LeBlanc, a student at The Culinary Institute of America, caught their eye. The plan focused on the creation of a dinner theater. As it happens, Canton is interested in upgrading their movie theater and has thought of incorporating a restaurant component and, utilizing a brownfield site only a few blocks from their downtown area. Dominique

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LeBlanc's plan was a good fit for Canton—creating a *double-win* for Ms. LeBlanc.

Students interested in entering the Business Plan Competition are strongly encouraged to attend the seminar. Those students planning to enter the competition should contact Catherine A. Maloney, DCEDC's Director of Business Development 845.463.5415 (cmaloney@dcedc.com).

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The Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is a private, nonprofit organization serving the cities, towns, and villages of Dutchess County. Funded annually by the County, the County's Industrial Development Agency, and through private-sector investment, the DCEDC supports and promotes business development in Dutchess County through a variety of business attraction, expansion, and entrepreneurial development programs.

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