



# Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation

## Newsrelease

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Business Plan Competition Spotlights Promising Student Entrepreneurs**

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – What could be more appealing to entrepreneurial college students than an opportunity to win *cash prizes* by presenting a well-structured business plan to a jury of local executives and business people?

The Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation's (DCEDC) second annual Business Plan Competition held on April 24 at Vassar College Alumnae House offered just such an opportunity. Three prizes provided by the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (DCIDA) were awarded. The First Prize Team was given \$1,500; the Second Prize team received \$750; and the Third prize team was awarded \$500. In addition to the cash prizes, each participant in the final event received a letter of recognition on behalf of DCEDC and the DCIDA. Recognition letters can benefit students when they apply to graduate school or search for a job.

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Anne N. Conroy, President and CEO of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, states: “The Business Plan Competition contributes to a more innovative climate that feeds entrepreneurial investment in Dutchess County—making it a *natural* project for our Business Development program.”

Says Michael J. Tomkovitch, Esq., Chair of the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, “The Business Plan Competition is an exciting way of supporting new entrepreneurship and stimulating economic development in Dutchess County. The plans submitted to the competition must be specific to Dutchess County both in need and location. This encourages the participating students to think in terms of staying in the area and starting a local business that will succeed in the local marketplace.”

Winner of the **First Place award** was a student from the Culinary Institute of America, Dominique LeBlanc, who presented a plan titled “Remy’s Dinner Theater.” The entrepreneurial idea was to open a dinner theater that would provide affordable dining together with movie entertainment. To be located near Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, the dinner theater would target mainly college students and young couples during the week and families on the weekends.

The winner of the **Second Place award** was a student at the Culinary Institute of America., Robert Dryfoos. He submitted a plan titled “Flour Pot Gourmet To-Go,” which would create a convenient take-out/to-go business that would provide customers with a budget-conscious and time-sensitive restaurant

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alternative. *Flour Pot* would offer customers the option of take-out and deli foods, as well as provide beverages, baked goods, and hot meals to busy customers.

The winner of the **Third Place** award was a team of students from Vassar College: Morgan Burns, Cristina McComic, Si Si Wang, Adon Vanwoerden, and Elom Katakko. Their plan for a business, titled “V-Drop,” was for starting a grocery delivery service for Vassar College students that would operate on the college campus through a V-Drop website.

DCEDC invites interested students with entrepreneurial ideas who would like to compete for prize money in the 2009 competition to contact Cathy Maloney, Director of Business Development the DCEDC office:

[cmaloney@dcedc.com](mailto:cmaloney@dcedc.com); 845.463.5415 (p) for information about next year’s Business Plan Competition.

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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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