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Regional Workshops Scheduled for Fourth Annual Monterey Bay Regional Business Plan Competition

Application workshops scheduled throughout the region in February and March

Seaside, Calif. – February 8, 2013 - The organizers of the Monterey Bay Regional Business Plan Competition, to be held May 3rd at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, (www.MBRCompetition.com) today announced a series of workshops to help applicants successfully complete the application that is due March 18.

"This is the fourth year of the event," said Dr. Brad Barbeau, CSUMB School of Business Professor and this year's Chair of the Monterey Bay Regional Business Plan, "and every year we receive higher quality applications, and more competitive companies apply. We want to make sure everyone understands how to complete the one page application and the process of the fever pitch event on March 29 to give them the best chance of competing in May."

All start-ups that can show how they will create jobs in the tri-county area are welcome to apply. Semifinalists will be chosen from the one-page applications due March 18 and a screening event held March 29th at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). The semifinalist companies will be asked to complete a full business plan, which they will present to panels of investors, industry leaders and business consultants at the May 3rd event.

Prizes range from \$1,000 cash for the winning student team, to \$5,000 cash for the winning main-street company, to \$50,000 in cash and professional services for the winning venture-play company. A main-street company is defined as one that will be a successful local or regional business creating jobs in the tri-county area, but is not scalable to return 10 times the investor's money in three to five years.

Information on the application is available at www.MBRCompetition.com, along with the application, instructions, entry forms and a participation agreement.

The regional workshops scheduled to date include:

- Monday, February 11 at 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Location: Monterey Peninsula College, Sam Karas Room in the Monterey Peninsula College library. 980 Fremont St. Monterey, 93940.
- Tuesday, February 12 at 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Location: Cruzioworks, 877 Cedar St., Santa Cruz, 95060
- Wednesday, February 13, from 4:00-5:30 pm. Location: Salinas Chamber of Commerce, 119 E. Alisal St. Salinas, 93901

- Tuesday, February 19, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Location: San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, 243 Sixth Street, Suite 100, Hollister 95023
- Thursday, February 21, at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Location: Monterey Peninsula College, Sam Karas Room in the Monterey Peninsula College library. 980 Fremont St. Monterey, 93940.
- Saturday, February 23, from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. Location: Monterey Institute of International Studies, 411 Pacific Street, Monterey 93940 ~ McGowan Room 320
- Tuesday, March 5, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Location: Marina Technology Cluster

To register for any of the free workshops, please call 831-831-582-3230.

The Monterey Bay Regional Business Plan Competition has the support of more than 50 business, education and government partners from the entire tri-county region that are united to showcase the business potential of the area; support regional start-ups; attract business and investors to the region; encourage business students to become entrepreneurs; and promote tech transfer, innovation and commercialization.

For updates on the competition, follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MBRBizPlan or like the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MBRCompetition .

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