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**Contacts:** 

Mark Peterson Peterson Communications 831.626.4400 mark@petersoncom.com



## Startup Challenge Prepares for "Pitch Event" Friday, March 28

Fifth Annual Competition Gets Ready For Pitch Event at California State University, Monterey Bay to Select the Finalists

Seaside, Calif. – March 27, 2014 - The organizers of the 2014 Startup Challenge (www.TheStartupChallenge.org) announced that more than 45 applications were received for the first round evaluations. On Friday, March 28, applicants will be have five minutes to pitch their company and business idea to a panel of judges and answer questions about their application. In between sessions, the entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to network, share ideas and discuss resources to help them launch their business. The goal of Friday's event is to get down to a group of finalists that will be invited to pitch their ideas and present their business plan at the final event.

The final event is open to the public and will be held on Friday, May 2<sup>rd,</sup> 2014, at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS). For more information on the competition, to find out how to be a sponsor, or to register to attend, visit the competition's website at www.TheStartupChallenge.org

All start-ups that can show how they will create jobs in the tri-county were welcome to apply. The Monterey Bay Regional Business Plan Competition has the support of more than 50 business, education and government partners from the 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.

Prizes range from \$5,000 cash for the winning student team, to \$10,000 cash for the winning main-street company, to \$50,000 in cash and professional services for the winning venture-play company.

For more information about the competition or to get involved as a sponsor, please visit www.TheStartupChallenge.org or call 831-831-582-3230.

Updates on the competition can be found on Twitter at www.twitter.com/StrtupChallenge or by liking the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheStartupChallenge .