

PHS, CHS STUDENTS WIN BIG AT DISTRICT 211 BUSINESS INCUBATOR PITCH NIGHT



Students in High School District 211's Business Incubator program spent the school year developing business ideas to try to bring them to life with the help of investors.

Six of the best teams from each school's Business Incubator course were selected to compete at the District Pitch Night for real funding this past May. After planning and preparation, each team presented their business idea to a panel of judges in hopes of being awarded \$20,000 in seed money from the District 211 Foundation.

Two teams won this year's seed money: *Green Dirt* from Conant High School and *Snow and Co.* from Palatine High School. Green Dirt also was recently invited to compete at the INCubatoredu National Pitch Competition that will take place at the Loyola Corby Law Center in Chicago this July.

Students enrolled in the Business Incubator class learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur, as well as how to be successful in creating their own product or service. The course covers topics about marketing, human resources, accounting, and the legal aspects of operating a business. When preparing for pitches, students worked not only with their classroom teacher, but also had support from community content experts and mentors. For the teams that did not receive funding, investors encouraged them all to continue pursuing their ideas.

The following teams participated at the District 211 pitch night event:



WINNER: Green Dirt – Conant High School

Students: Akash Moozhayil, Kunal Mahajan, Stoil Ionov, Rohan Antony, Patryk Barszczuk

Mentor: David Wolff of Wolff's Fleamarket



Company overview: *GreenDirt is a startup company that addresses the major problem of food waste. We collect scraps from local restaurants, convert to a premium gardening product, vermicompost, which we then sell to local nurseries and garden centers.*



WINNER: Snow and Co. – Palatine High School

Students: Alex Brztowski, Katherine Perez, Nemecio Luna, Reil Snow

Mentor: CJ Ritterbusch of Concord Marketing Solutions



Company overview: *The Janus Pack is the solution for students who need to charge their electronics while helping students with organizational skills.*



Finalist: KickCarrier – Schaumburg High School

Students: Katherine Edeus, Daniel Galovich, Lisette Hurtado, Vincent Kandefer



Mentor: Jon Zaley of Odem Expo

Company overview: *KickCarrier is a unique platform where sneakerheads can buy, sell, or trade shoes. If it doesn't sell, we will buy it!*



Finalist: ProjectTapp-Tapp Camp – Conant High School

Students: Eliot Chang, Mitesh Patel, Michael Kim

Mentor: Jim Gallo of Specialty Finishing Group



Company overview: *ProjectTapp is a start-up mobile app developer for the private and public sector providing an incubator-type platform that integrates TappCamp, a coding educational and training service. TappCamp educates students in grades 5 – 12 to become app writers and future app developers for ProjectTapp that, in return, adds more innovation and creativity to the mobile app industry.*



Finalist: BlissFoot – Fremd High School

Students: Laura Bienek, Aarsh Desai, Hanna Murakami, Luke Schoffstall, Gianfranco Torres

Mentor: Chris Banakis of Acuity Advisory Partners LLC



Company overview: *BlissFoot provides competitive long distance runners and other endurance athletes with on-the-go protection against friction, and the resulting irritation, in order to reduce discomfort and enhance performance.*



Finalist: InnerMap – Hoffman Estates High School

Students: Chloe Jefferson, Edlawit Zerihun, Errick Delaney

Mentor: Sheila Serafin of RIM Logistics



Company overview: *InnerMap will design and create indoor mapping for large public buildings such as malls, airports, and stadiums. The software and app will provide consumers with step by step directions to where they need to go as well as allow retailers in the buildings to push advertising and promotions to potential customers nearby.*

SLIDESHOW: BUSINESS INCUBATOR STUDENTS COMPETE AT DISTRICT 211 PITCH NIGHT

Student teams from Palatine, Fremd, Conant, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools' Business Incubator classes competed hard in District 211's very first "shark tank" event.

The best teams from each school were selected to compete at the District Pitch Night for real funding. The groups presented business ideas to community "sharks" for seed money to start real businesses. Palatine High School's DeoTech, which consists of students Kosta Plevritis, Anthony Portera, Drake Roberts, and Anthony Tamras, were the winners and earned \$25,000 in seed money for their company from the District 211 Foundation.

Watch the slideshow below to view photos from District 211 Pitch Night.

PHS STUDENTS EARN \$25,000 FOR BUSINESS IDEA IN DISTRICT 211 PITCH NIGHT COMPETITION



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PHS students created the business DeoTech and pitch their product to a panel of investors.

DeoTech pitched their product DeoBlock, which aims to raise standards of portable deodorizers by creating an eco-friendly and cost-effective product. As of pitch night, the group already had a commitment from a local gym to sell their product.

Six total groups were chosen to present their business ideas to a panel of investors. In addition to DeoTech, those groups included the following schools and students:



Kickswap – Conant High School – TJ Brashears, Abbas Josh, Rikin Patel, and Priya Shah



Qubed – Fremd High School – Andres Carrero, Yulia Odinkova, Shun Yamamoto, Kristine Yim, and Sarah Yoon



Re-Lax Services – Schaumburg High School – Stephen Jurica, Ryan Urbanik, Alex Walls, and Matt Warren



Simple Chip – Hoffman Estates High School – Christian Peralta, Sara Michalik, Nico Soriano, and Alex Khokhari



Shoe Monkey – Palatine High School – Alex Korinko, Trevor Lyons, Zach Proctor, and Hannah Tipper

Students enrolled in B397 Business Incubator class have worked not only with their classroom teacher, but also had unprecedented support from community content-experts and mentors. For the teams that did not receive funding, investors encouraged them all to continue pursuing their ideas.

Groups, such as PHS' Shoe Monkey, have already received encouragement to move forward

with their idea. Shoe Monkey, which is a social impact company that strives to provide children with healthy shoes that can be recycled to shoeless children worldwide, recently won \$500 at the NIU Social Entrepreneurship Summit and Competition. Other groups stated they would continue to pursue their idea and use the investor panel's feedback as ways to improve.