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Entrepreneurial Teams

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Five teams of aspiring entrepreneurs will move into the final round of the University of Dayton's 2011-2012 Business Plan Competition, competing for a \$25,000 top prize.

"Our finalists this year are a diverse mix, including ventures focused on technology-driven products and services that have the potential for significant societal impact," said Diane Sullivan, competition coordinator and assistant management professor.

Now in its sixth year, the competition offers nearly \$140,000 in total support with a \$25,000 top prize along with expert advice on transforming a great idea into a viable, marketable, innovative business plan.

The competition was recently recognized as one of the 15 largest college business plan competitions by Under30CEO, a news and trend media site for young entrepreneurs.

"The fact that our competition has grown into one of the largest university-sponsored business plan competitions in the nation is a testament to our vision and the hard work of our faculty," said Dean McFarlin, chair of the management and marketing department.

"The Business Plan Competition offers an exceptional learning experience for University students while providing the help entrepreneurs need to launch exciting new ventures that benefit the entire region. That's a win-win for the University and our community."

Finalists are:

Aggiez Inc. offers an opportunity to personalize shoes, shorts, sweats, hoodies, backpacks or any item that has a drawstring or shoelace with a personalized accessory that attaches and protects the end of the string. Team members: Kyle Stahlberg, University of Dayton alumnus; Daniel Vucenovic; Charles Lowe; Danny Andrich.

SafeStart by AoneC is an in-vehicle glucose monitor that tests glucose levels of diabetics and prevents a car from running if the level is not in an acceptable range. Team: Cathy Armstrong; Anthony Saettel; John Saettel, University of Dayton alumnus.

Safety Lighting System offers lights that attach to the rear tandems of tractor-trailers to create better rear visibility. Team: Joe Kiser, Larry Kiser, Mary Kiser and University of Dayton entrepreneurship students Alex Reineke and Jim Russell.

SoMoLend is a Web- and mobile-based lending company. Team: Hamir Mahajan, Christopher Calvert, Candace Klein, and University of Dayton alumnus Chris Seelbach.

Wind Turbine offers small-grade, cost-effective, residential wind turbines that produce energy to power residences. Team: Matt Antenucci, Mike Groff, Chris Carcione, Austin Hancock, Eric Hedgedus and James Hundt: all University of Dayton students.

All finalists also will be assigned industry-specific outside mentors to help them develop complete business plans. Final presentations will be held in March; winners are announced at the School of Business Administration's entrepreneurship program banquet in the spring.

The University of Dayton is recognized nationally for its innovative programs for entrepreneurship education. For the past six years, The Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine ranked the University of Dayton as having one of the top 15 programs in the nation.

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