

## BUSINESS PLAN CONTESTS

*The Rice Business Plan Competition, the world's richest and largest graduate-level student startup competition, opened applications for the.*

Not only was it a great exercise, it was fun and insightful as well. But then they had a good answer to my question. Cost: Free. Powered by Right Click Capital, the winner of this competition can walk away with one million in investment. I might even get some startup funds from them and get great PR from the event. In , one of the two years he won the competition, he won with a plan to provide Web portals with smarter search engine technology called Direct Hit Technologies. Good show. Visit our sponsorship page to view our associate and additional sponsors and to learn more about sponsorship opportunities. Burke says that while young entrepreneurs can fill their knowledge gap by creating an advisory board. It provides a state-wide platform for emerging startups to refine and showcase their company. Brad Burke is managing director for the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, which organizes and hosts the competition. There are no guarantees in life, or in venture capital. You may have a winner on your hands. A company we plan to grow right here in Wisconsin, adding fuel to local job growth and economic development! Date: You have until January 31 to submit an entry, and until May 30 to upload your business plan for review. Entering a business plan competition and possibly winning cash prizes for your business idea, and having mentors to guide you through the process, can keep your motivation at an all-time high and help you finish every section of your plan. Teams for this competition must consist of graduate, undergraduate or community college students in New York colleges and universities. Entrepreneurs do not. I know some business-plan competitions where the cost and the prize money easily reach into the hundreds of thousands. Even if it seems like there isn't obvious competition, think about the alternatives to what your team is proposing. That way, when a judge asks, "Tell us what your unit cost is in ," the team can go to the index, find the hyperlinked slide, and show the answer right away. In between, you have to attend four workshops. All finalists get South Summit tickets and one-on-one meetings with investors. If you want to invest, do so after Aha: If you truly want to invest in ventures as part of a business-development competition, invest in the venture s that takes off with limited or no cash. This shows that the business is offering something with more value. Second, because I attended the final awards reception, talked to the judges, faculty advisors and contestants, and everybody seemed to be very comfortable with the final decision. So wow. Bessemer Venture Partners notes some of the famous names they rejected on their web site, including Google. Every year Technovation invites girls to identify a problem in their community, and then challenge them to solve it. The scale has grown, too. He suggests identifying the total addressable market, which is a subset of the larger market. The contest does not require the submission of a full business plan, but the submission should provide all necessary information. Business-plan competitions have expanded into elevator pitch battles and industry-specific contests. So all those who judge these contests should keep in mind that they may be rejecting a potential Google. That will make them careful, and will show the entrepreneurs that it is not easy picking a winner before Aha. Teams are naturally going to be missing a key personâ€”a marketer, an engineer. The business plan that looks like a sure-fire winner could end up being a disaster. The College of New Jersey's Mayo Business Plan Competition The goal of this competition is to increase student appreciation for the challenges of developing a business. Cash prizes are available for the top teams from each regional zone the 10 major regions of New York. The competition themes include early childhood education, workforce learning, urban education and many more. Amount you can win: Up to one million USD in equity investment, plus cash and in-kind prizes Slush Why you should go: This is the cool kids table. They are a waste of time and money. Many past winners have developed into successful enterprises. In addition, the publicity that we received from the contest resulted in us adding several new key customers.