



Eagle Works

TENNESSEE TECH

Competition Overview

- Saturday, April 12
 - 12-1:30 Tradeshow + preliminary round (if needed)
 - 2-4ish Final pitches
- Shark Tank style event
 - Compete alone or on a team
 - 7 minute pitch, 5 minute Q&A
 - Innovative idea – does not need to be created but must be plausible and feasible
 - Thousands in scholarships to be awarded
- Sign up for newsletter on website (tnitech.edu/eagleworks)

How to Compete

- Have an innovative idea
 - Can be anything – business, service, app, invention
 - Find a problem that needs to be solved (learn more next week at Business Model Canvas workshop!)
- Form or join a team
 - Team not required but highly recommended
 - No idea but want to compete? Find a team
 - Having trouble finding a team or teammates? Contact Andrea akruszka@tntech.edu – we will help as much as possible!
- Be sure to review the How to Compete/FAQs pages/Info Powerpoint <https://www.tntech.edu/eagleworks> (update coming soon)

How to Compete

- Create a business model/plan
 - Base it on the rubric – link is under FAQs on the website!
 - Watch the Business Model Canvas video on EW website (How to Compete)
 - We have mentors and The Biz Foundry to help you
 - Template available on FAQs page of website
- **Submit model two weeks before the competition**
 - Wednesday March 26 by 11:59 p.m.
 - ALL late submissions will lose 20 points in rubric***
 - Don't wait til the last minute!
 - No changes accepted after 11:59 p.m. without penalty

How to Compete

- Develop a pitch and practice it!
 - 7 minutes MAXIMUM
 - Tells the story
 - Presentation shouldn't be overly complex, is a supplement to your pitch
 - Presentation is NOT required
- We will have multiple pitch practices prior to competition!
 - Use these sessions to get feedback and update your pitch. We will help as much as we can!

How to Compete

- We will provide a laptop for presentations
 - We HIGHLY recommend using PowerPoint widescreen format and sending your file to [Andrea akruszka@tntech.edu](mailto:Andrea.akruszka@tntech.edu) ahead of time; however
 - Save your presentation as a PDF to make sure it will be compatible, fonts will stay the same, etc.
 - Bring a copy of your presentation on a USB drive – backups are always a good idea!
 - We highly recommend NO video!
 - Test your presentation before you compete!

How to Compete

- If preliminary rounds necessary (assume they will be!):
 - Most likely will happen during tradeshow hours – otherwise will be in morning same day
 - You will do your 7 minute pitch
 - Judges will have 5 minutes for Q&A
 - If you don't have an answer – “Great question! We'll research that and get back to you!”
 - We will call time at 5 minutes even if you are in the middle of an answer

Preliminary Judging

- Judges are business and community leaders, entrepreneurs, etc with a variety of backgrounds
 - If a judge has worked with a team, they may still ask questions but they will not submit a rubric for that team
- Judges will receive business summary before competition
- They will score your pitch based on rubric on FAQ section of website
- After all teams have pitched, the judges will deliberate on finalist teams (5-6 total)

Finals Judging

- There will be 3-5 finalist judges – business and community leaders, entrepreneurs, etc
 - If a judge has worked with a team, they may still ask questions but they will not submit a rubric for that team
- Judges will receive business summary before competition
- They will score your pitch based on rubric on FAQ section of website

Awards

- Over \$10,000 in awards
 - First, Second, Third place
 - Smaller awards can go to any team, not just finalists!
 - Rural Reimagined
 - Others
- Awarded as a **SCHOLARSHIP**
 - Excess aid
 - If at federal maximum, let us know, we will do our best to work something out

Competition Day Overview

- 12-1:30 – Tradeshow – RUC Multipurpose Room
- 1:30 – Finalists announced
- 2:00 – Finalist pitches – RUC Multipurpose Room

- Public event- **INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY! There is a crowd favorite award so bring everyone!**

- **Times and locations may change slightly!**

More to Come

- Join mailing list, watch Tech Times, watch websites for all the updates
- Several workshop dates include time for working on your project, asking questions, and getting feedback. Take advantage of that!
- Remember – we are here to help!
 - We are happy to meet with you anytime before business plans are due
 - We can review your business model, pitch, and give feedback.
 - Reach out through the Contact Us page!

Idea Challenge – 2/13

- Thursday 2/13, 6 pm
- 90 seconds to pitch your idea
- No PowerPoint
- No Q&A
- Sessions on 1/29 & 2/5 help prepare
- Practice your pitch 2/10 – location TBD
- \$1000 scholarship to winner
- A chance to test out your idea before April competition

Important Spring Dates (subject to change)

all workshops in RUC 246 unless otherwise stated

- 1/29: Business Model Canvas
- 2/5: Elevator Pitches
- 2/10: *Pitch Practice – location TBD*
- **2/13: **IDEA CHALLENGE – RUC MULTIPURPOSE ROOM****
- 2/19: Branding
- 2/26: Business Plans/Financial
- 3/5: Effective Presentations
- 3/12: How to Set Up for a Tradeshow
- **3/26: **Workshop/Help Session + REGISTRATION DEADLINE****
- 3/31: *Business Plans due*
- 3/31-4/11: *Pitch Practices*
- **4/12: **COMPETITION DAY!****

I&E Certificate

- Open to all majors
- Hours split between classes and experience
- Information on webpage!
- <https://www.tntech.edu/innovation/> → Academic Programs → I&E Certificate
- Talk to your advisor then contact us through webpage if interested
- Don't wait until right before you graduate! Start early for the most help!
- If you are graduating this semester, start this process now!!!

www.tntech.edu/eagleworks

Follow us on FB/Insta: @TechEagleWorks

AKRUSZKA@TNTECH.EDU

Register now:

