



PortaVision Medical Wins Second Annual JEDCO Entrepreneur Challenge

[The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) and [First NBC Bank](#) are pleased to announce the winner of the second annual [JEDCO Challenge](#). [PortaVision Medical](#), an x-ray system that improves the quality of care for premature babies based out of Jefferson Parish, took home the top prize at Tuesday's event. David Bode, the company's Director of Strategy and Finance, presented the winning pitch.



Founder, Terry Ancar, designed and manufactured the [NeoRay Portable Digital X-Ray System](#) after recognizing a real need in neonatal care units. Currently, the X-Ray devices used on adult patients are also used in Neonatal Intensive Care Units for imaging of fragile premature babies. Preterm babies often times can't handle the high level of radiation. The NeoRay solves that problem. It is a small, compact system that is specially designed to be used in Neonatal Intensive Care Units right at the incubator. In comparison to the 1,200-pound X-ray systems currently being used, the NeoRay will greatly enhance and improve the healthcare of preterm babies by saving imaging time, reducing infant radiation exposure and improving the physician's ability to make critical treatment decisions quickly. Already, PortaVision has several units in hospitals across the country, including one that was donated to Children's Hospital in New Orleans by Saints player, Marques Colston.

Held during [New Orleans Entrepreneur Week](#), an event spearheaded by [Idea Village](#), the JEDCO Challenge is a pitch competition to highlight entrepreneurs with ties to Jefferson Parish. Five startups were chosen out of 44 applicants to compete in Tuesday's event at Southport Hall. Alexander Girau of [ADVANO](#), Alex Goss of [The Collector](#), Blaine Lindsey of [GetHealthy, Inc.](#) and Sean Carrigan of [MobileQubes](#) joined Bode to compete for the Jefferson Parish prize package.

The entrepreneurs pitched to over 100 people at Southport Hall Tuesday. The winner was partially chosen by a panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders: Betsie Gambel, founder of Gambel Communications; Michael Hecht, President and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc.; Clayton White of Simmons & White and The South Coast Angel Fund; Mike LeBeau of First NBC Bank and Leo Holzenthal of MS Benbow & Associates. The

judges scored the pitches on presentation, innovation, ability to answer questions effectively, Jefferson Parish impact and company scalability. The entrepreneurs also received points based on a crowd vote and business plans submitted in advance of Tuesday's pitch competition.

"I am impressed with the quality of the startups that participated in the JEDCO Challenge. All of the entrepreneurs involved in the Challenge represent the future wave of business leaders in Jefferson Parish and we look forward to seeing all of them find success in our community," says Jerry Bologna, JEDCO Executive Director. "PortaVision truly proved its capacity to grow and positively impact Jefferson Parish through its neonatal x-ray system. JEDCO will remain at the ready to support PortaVision, and all of the small businesses involved, as they continue to move forward to the next level of success."

"This is a truly momentous occasion for PortaVision Medical," says founder and CEO, Terry Ancar. "This has been a process six years in the making. Winning the JEDCO Challenge presents a huge opportunity for this company and we look forward to putting the prize package to good use. We want to thank JEDCO and Jefferson Parish for their support and look forward to improving healthcare for premature babies in Jefferson Parish and across the region for many years to come."

PortaVision Medical won a prize package worth almost \$80,000 in cash and business services, including:

- \$20,000 in cash provided by First NBC Bank, 1st Lake Properties/Bella Ridge Apartments, Atmos Energy, MMI Culinary Services and Postlethwaite & Netterville
- Professional accounting and tax services from LaPorte CPA's and Business Advisors
- Facilitated planning from A Journey to Success
- 20 hours of PR services from Gambel Communications
- 12 hours of strategic competitive intelligence research to gain knowledge of the industry from Ardyn Thriffiley and Associates
- Legal hours from Baker Donelson
- A year of weekly sales training with Sandler Training
- Free business consulting with the Cordina New Orleans Cocktails team
- Complimentary Jefferson Chamber membership and a meeting with Chamber president, Todd Murphy
- Interview on Cox 4's Across Louisiana
- Insurance and risk management consulting with the Gillis, Ellis & Baker team
- Design and creation of a website from Compucast Web Design
- Free training workshops from the LSBDC for the top three companies
- Design engineering, professional drafting, consulting engineering, project management and telecommunications from MS Benbow & Associates
- Free office space at the Business Innovation Center at Churchill

"The JEDCO Challenge provides a wonderful platform for the companies participating," adds First NBC Bank President & CEO Ashton Ryan. "Not only does it connect these entrepreneurs with businessmen and women who can help them grow and achieve success in Jefferson Parish, but it also gives our community a real opportunity to see the true talent, energy and creativity present in our community right now."

The JEDCO Challenge would not have been possible without support from the regional business community. JEDCO would like to sincerely thank everyone who made this event possible in its second year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2014 SPONSORS: A Journey to Success, Ardyn Thriffiley & Associates, Atmos Energy, Baker Donelson, Business Innovation Center at Churchill, Compucast Web Design, Cordina New Orleans Cocktails, Cox Communications, 1st Lake Properties & Bella Ridge Apartments, First NBC Bank, Gambel Communications, Gillis, Ellis & Baker, LaPorte CPAs and Business Advisors, LSBDC GNOR, Jefferson Chamber, MMI Culinary Services, MS Benbow & Associates, Postlethwaite & Netterville and

Sandler Training.

2014 Partners: Idea Village, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, 504ward, Jefferson Parish, New Orleans BioInnovation Center, the LSBDC GNOR, Metro NOLA Source Link, 10,000 Small Businesses at Delgado and Greater New Orleans, Inc.

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ABOUT FIRST NBC BANK: First NBC Bank received a charter to begin operation from the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions in May 2006. Through overwhelming support from the local community, the Bank's initial capital footings exceeded \$60 million, which set a record for the largest initial capital raised by a Louisiana chartered institution. There are 31 banking offices on the South and North Shores of the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area. First NBC Bank has been selected as one of the Best Places to Work six times in a row *New Orleans CityBusiness*.

The bank's mission is to deliver world-class service through developing long-term relationships with clients while providing a great place to work for its employees and demonstrating outstanding corporate citizenship within its communities, resulting in exceptional returns for its shareholders.

ABOUT NOEW: The culmination of the Idea Village's annual Entrepreneur Season, NOEW has become the premiere showcase event for the New Orleans entrepreneurial ecosystem. NOEW 2014 is expected to engage 5,000+ of the nation's most innovative business leaders, financiers, entrepreneurs and students. It's all happening this week. [Check out the NOEW website for a full list of events!](#)





Video X-ray machine for treating premature infants wins the Jefferson Parish business challenge during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week



David Bode pitches the PortaVision video X-ray machine for treating premature infants during the JEDCO Challenge for startups with Jefferson Parish ties during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week 2014 on Tuesday, March 25. PortaVision ultimately won the judges' nod for a top prize of \$20,000 in cash and an array of donated professional services. *(Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)*

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By [Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on March 25, 2014 at 6:18 PM, updated March 25, 2014 at 6:36 PM

y with a video X-ray device for use in treating premature infants won the **Jefferson Parish-based business competition** as part of **New Orleans Entrepreneur Week** on Tuesday (March 25), giving it a \$20,000 cash infusion and a raft of donated professional services.

Terry Ancar, president of PortaVision Medical, and David Bode, director of strategy and finance, said the monetary help is just what their enterprise needs to put the finishing touches on the technology and complete the process of securing patents.

"We needed that little, little bit of extra support," Bode said.

Bode said their product would allow doctors to conduct medical procedures on preemies, such as inserting catheters, with a live video feed to guide them in avoiding mistakes and having to make multiple attempts that can be traumatic for their fragile patients.

Such technology exists for adult patients, but the challenge, Ancar said, has been to shrink it for use on tiny babies. "It's been an uphill battle," he said.

Ancar, who spent his career running a medical imaging firm, has personally been developing the technology along with a colleague from his previous business and said it's almost finished.

This was the second year for the business **challenge sponsored by the Jefferson Economic Development Commission**. More than 100 people attended to watch the pitches at the Southport Hall nightclub near the New Orleans and Jefferson Parish line and the east bank of the Mississippi River. The idea of the competition is to support companies that have ties to Jefferson Parish or operations in the parish, presenting the prospect of bolstering the parish's economy if they grow.

Five companies took the stage to pitch their products or services. A panel of judges from a range of business realms asked them questions about how their products work, the costs they face, barriers to winning wide adoption of their products, their revenue models and plans for spreading awareness of their efforts in the relevant markets.



The audience at the Southport Hall nightclub in Old Jefferson for the JEDCO Challenge business competition, focusing on firms with Jefferson Parish connections, during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. *Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune*

The winner last year was **Billy Bosch, founder of the Be Well Nutrition** company, which makes the health drink Iconic. He said Tuesday that the \$20,000 he won last year paid for another production run of his drink. Bosch also said he made connections with mentors through the event, which helped him refine his production to a point where he expects to be able to widen the distribution of Iconic to other parts of the country.

JEDCO estimated that the total value of its prizes this years reached more than \$65,000, including the \$20,000 cash award and the donated professional services both for the winner and other participants.

The audience on Tuesday heard from four other finalists:

- ADVANO, a company by entrepreneur Alexander Girau that manufactures nanoparticles needed for lithium-ion batteries, medical uses such as gene therapy for cancer treatment and other technologies.
- The Collector, an Internet site by Alex Goss and Michael Angle that aims to help groups of people organize and track money collecting for activities such as fantasy football leagues, basketball championship brackets and vacations with friends.
- GetHealthy, a program by Blaine Lindsey for doctors, employers and insurance providers to encourage healthfulness among their patients, employees and policyholders.
- MobileQubes, a system of kiosks in travel hubs and other high-traffic locations that rent out batteries to preserve the usability of mobile phones, developed by Sean Carrigan, Jason Palmer and Mike Melito.

SILICON BAYOU NEWS

[PortaVision, Makers of Digital X-Ray System, Wins JEDCO Challenge at NOEW](#)

[Julia Ballard](#) | March 26, 2014 | [0 Comments](#)

The [JEDCO Challenge](#), an entrepreneurial pitch competition created by the [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) and sponsored [First NBC Bank](#), is only in its second year and already making a splash at New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW).

Over 40 applicants were narrowed down to the five finalists that pitched yesterday (March 25) at Southport Hall: PortaVision, Advano, The Collector, GetHealthy and MobileQubes.

NOEW, produced by The Idea Village, is host to over 50 entrepreneurship-related events throughout the week. The JEDCO Challenge provides local entrepreneurs with a platform in Jefferson Parish to showcase their early-stage ventures.



[PortaVision Medical](#), makers of the digital X-ray system that improves the quality of care for premature babies, won the second annual challenge.

David Bode, the company's Director of Strategy and Finance, presented the winning pitch. Bode is a current Tulane business student and was previously involved with NOEW as a member of the school's IDEACorps team last year.

Bode works alongside PortaVision founder and President Terry Ancar who designed and manufactured the [NeoRay Portable Digital X-Ray System](#) that consists of a portable flat panel digital receptor integrated with a compact yet powerful full feature workstation. The small-sized system is a solution to the traditional, 1,200 pound X-ray devices used in Neonatal Intensive Care which are also used on adults.

The system, which is saves imaging time and reduces infant radiation exposure, is currently in several hospitals across the country.

“This is a truly momentous occasion for PortaVision Medical,” says PortaVision founder and CEO Terry Ancar. “This has been a process six years in the making. Winning the JEDCO Challenge presents a huge opportunity for this company and we look forward to putting the prize package to good use. We want to thank JEDCO and Jefferson Parish for their support and look forward to improving healthcare for premature babies in Jefferson Parish and across the region for many years to come.”

PortaVision won a prize package worth almost \$80,000 in cash and business services, including a \$20,000 cash prize from First NBC Bank, professional accounting and tax services, facilitated planning, 20 hours of public relations services, 12 hours of strategic competitive intelligence research, legal hours from Baker Donelson and much more.

“I am impressed with the quality of the startups that participated in the JEDCO Challenge. All of the entrepreneurs involved in the Challenge represent the future wave of business leaders in Jefferson Parish and we look forward to seeing all of them find success in our community,” says Jerry Bologna, JEDCO Executive Director. “PortaVision truly proved its capacity to grow and positively impact Jefferson Parish through its neonatal x-ray system. JEDCO will remain at the ready to support PortaVision, and all of the small businesses involved in the Challenge, as they continue to move forward to the next level of success.”



The
JEDCO Challenge
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Presents

PortaVision



0:04 / 3:48



JEDCO Challenge: PortaVision Medical

Get Support

Help



3. If your blood sugar becomes low while driving you should:
4. The best place to store your insulin while driving in a vehicle is:

NDEP Diabetes Travel Tips



David Marrero

Travel over 100,000 miles a year in my job.
Managing Type 2 Diabetes
Travel domestically and abroad and one thing

Questions

1. Traveling while having diabetes it is recommended to carry with you at all times the following:

- ✓ Double your amount of insulin needed
- ✓ Medical ID
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ All of the above

2. When taking a long flight where is the best place to store your diabetes medical bag?
- ✓ Store with luggage below the seat



04:28

HD



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JEDCO Challenge: GetHealthy

from JEDCO 2 weeks ago NOT YET RATED

Blaine Lindsey shares his startup story.



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JEDCO Challenge: MobileQubes

from **JEDCO** 2 weeks ago NOT YET RATED

The founders of MobileQubes share their startup story.



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JEDCO Challenge: The Collector

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The founders of The Collector share their startup story.



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JEDCO Challenge: ADVANO

from **JEDCO** 2 weeks ago NOT YET RATED

Alexander Girau shares his startup story.

Entrepreneur Week celebrates unique ideas turned into real businesses



Posted on March 21, 2014 at 9:04 AM

WWLTV.com

Email: webteam@wwltv.com | **Twitter:** [@WWLTV](https://twitter.com/WWLTV)

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Friday is the kick off of a major city-wide event that celebrates people who turn their unique ideas into a business plan.

It's the start of the 6th annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, and a big conference is planned giving, entrepreneurs and future entrepreneurs a chance to develop and grow their ideas.

The week is full of events for everyone, from those looking to start up a business, to those that already own one, to those just looking for new ideas or who have new ideas they want to share.

Entrepreneur Week is a very big deal in the New Orleans Metro Area every year, and it's a way for many business startups and established businesses to get the tools and resources they need to have and grow a successful company.

All of the events begin Saturday, and it will be a week full of activities.

There will plenty of forums, competitions, and one-on-one sessions for everyone looking to better grow their brand.

One of the big draws to this week of events and networking is the number of resources accessible to all attendees, and the best part, all of the events are free.

Friday is the opening ceremony followed by a host of events throughout the week. For a full list of events, [click here](#).

New Orleans Entrepreneur Week closes with a big finale, an audience-involved pitch competition, in which 13 contestants will try to win audience support for a grand prize of \$50,000 in order to grow their idea into a reality.

As for some of the other highlights, Saturday there will be a youth competition, and Wednesday there will be a women's in business competition, both of which will be full of information for children and women looking to grow as entrepreneurs or become entrepreneurs.

Antwan Harris reports from Gallier Hall, where the Entrepreneur Week opening ceremony will take place Friday night. He speaks with:

- Victoria Adams, Director of Content Strategy for the Idea Village who breaks down some of the main events;
- Jerry Bologna, Executive Director at JEDCO who talks about Jefferson Parish's involvement in Entrepreneur Week, and an exciting event called the JEDCO Challenge;
- Tim Williamson, Co-founder and CEO of the Idea Village who highlights the importance of the week around the area; and
- Tara Canobbio, a manager at Google who speaks about the Youth Entrepreneurship Day events.



An answer for dead cell phone batteries looks for a charge at New Orleans Entrepreneur Week



By [Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on March 17, 2014 at 9:00 AM, updated March 17, 2014 at 6:21 PM

Sean Carrigan noticed something annoying. Not earth-shaking, but irritating no doubt. It was an experience to which millions can relate. Rather than grumble, shrug and move on, however, Carrigan **started a company** to attack the problem.

"I was in a place where I needed my cell phone charged, and it was very frustrating," Carrigan said. "It's a helpless feeling. And it's a universal problem."

Specifically it was a restaurant in eastern New Orleans where Carrigan's phone died. He was anticipating some phone calls, emails and text messages. He asked if he could plug in behind the bar, but the bartender wouldn't cooperate.

"I thought to myself, 'Wouldn't it be great if there was something I could pay a little bit of money into and charge my phone,'" he said.

Now as chief executive officer of the New Orleans startup MobileQubes, Carrigan is the one planning to provide such an option.

During the upcoming **New Orleans Entrepreneur Week** business festival, he will seek support at the newly created **Demo Day** introducing local angel investors to homegrown businesses and the business **pitch competition produced by the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission**.

The idea of MobileQubes is to establish a network of kiosks that dispense charge packs capable of refilling most mobile phone batteries one to two times. Carrigan likened the service to the Redbox movie rental stations. "The business model is a rent and return," he said.

The company is focusing on airports, hospitals, convention centers, theme parks and casinos, all places where people might be committed to staying for extended periods - what Carrigan called "closed systems" -- while wanting to remain digitally connected as they move about. MobileQubes also might add offices, especially those where employees often rove into the field.

The kiosks will help customers get the correct type of battery pack to fit their phones' plugs. When customers deposit drained packs back into the machines, they will automatically recharge. The electrical parcels are designed so only the kiosks can recharge them, said Carrigan and his partners in the business.

"The machine processes it, recharges it and deploys it for the next customer," Carrigan said.

They plan to rent the battery packs for \$4.99 for the first day and \$.99 cents per following day up to eight days. If someone doesn't return one after that, the system will charge \$19.99 for the missing battery.

MobileQubes kiosks have yet to go live. The company plans to deploy the first 10 to 15 by the end of the summer and begin collecting data on customers' responses.

While the venture started with Carrigan, much of the company's story thus far is about the converging paths of three partners.

Carrigan, 31, started his career in business development at Dow Jones in New York and said it was a great job but it was hard to make a difference in a large organization. "Everything I did, I wasn't really moving the needle," he said.

So he helped launch a firm called **adverCar**, which places **advertising decals on cars**. The **Greater New Orleans, Inc.**, economic development group and **New Orleans Startup Fund** lured adverCar to New Orleans in 2011, and Carrigan came with it.

Soon, though, investors based in the San Francisco area pressured the company to move there. That's a kind of pull emerging companies sometimes feel in New Orleans. Carrigan, however, said he thinks the city's landscape for startups is maturing to become less susceptible to such outbound influences.

"It's a tough thing with New Orleans startups because you need to follow the money," he said. "I think that's something that will evolve down here."

For his part, he stayed in New Orleans when adverCar left in 2012 and started working on his next venture.

Carrigan studied economics and communications in college before embarking on his career in business, and he needed help developing the technology he envisioned for the phone charging stations.

Through a friend he found Jason Palmer, 31, whose background is in bioengineering. Palmer was working as a field engineer for the **Abbott Laboratories** medical technology firm and pursuing a doctorate in biomedical engineering, but tiring of academia.

Carrigan and Palmer, now the chief technology officer for MobileQubes, began studying the market and how their system would work.

A missing piece, Carrigan said, was someone with industry expertise.

Then they found Mike Melito, 52, who has built a career catching technology waves.

Melito was one of the first people to sell fax machines for the **Sharp** electronics company starting in the mid-1980s, he said. Then in the late 1990s he connected with the Nextel communications company, selling mobile phones as an independent dealer as that market was about to explode and building a network of stores.

He attempted retirement. "Retirement is not for entrepreneurs," Melito said.

So he became an investor, joining the **South Coast Angel Fund**. It was in that role that Melito first met Carrigan at adverCar. Later, drawing on his years in the mobile phone business, Melito was intrigued by Carrigan's portable charging idea.

"I instantly liked it and I immediately wanted to be a part of it," Melito said.

Melito now serves as executive vice president of MobileQubes. In reality, though, the three of them perform all kinds of jobs for the company.

In deciding what to create, they thought about systems where users dock their phones inside lock boxes. Such systems exist, they said. But owners can't use their phones while they're charging. It's a "bad customer experience," Carrigan said. "We let the customer hold on to their phone. They're always in control."

They considered that some venues, such as airports, have hubs where people can plug in devices. But they noted people must remember to bring their power cords, and phone users have to stay tethered to an outlet in a wall.

The partners also weighed the fact that backup battery packs for phones are available for purchase at retail. But Carrigan said those come at a "high pain price point" of \$60 to \$130.

Melito said only 5 percent of mobile phone customers have such an "ancillary charging brick." He said conversations with people he knows at airport electronics stores indicate about half the people who buy the bricks pick them up in one airport and return them in the next, seeming to validate demand for a rent and return model.

MobileQubes participated in the most recent business accelerator program at The Idea Village, the organization that produces Entrepreneur Week. While there, the founders worked with Mike Eckert, an angel investor recently moved to New Orleans who co-founded the Weather Channel, served as its chief executive officer and **led the latest class of startups in training**.

Eckert said the trio impressed him. Carrigan's startup experience, Palmer's technical skills and Melito's industry background are a formidable mix, he said.

"I have a lot of confidence in them," Eckert said. "It's a good team. There's a good chemistry between the team."

It was a sign of maturity for Carrigan and Palmer to seek out Melito, he said. Company founders often show reluctance to inviting senior partners, or don't know how to lure advanced professionals to high-risk, high-commitment roles, Eckert said.

"They were wise in bringing in a seasoned veteran," Eckert said. "The wise, wise, wiser of these startups will go out and put together an advisory board of seasoned people."

So far one of the company's greatest challenges has been developing the kiosks that automate multiple functions, Eckert said.

"The MobileQubes kiosk is a complicated piece of technology with a lot of moving parts," he said. "It's been very impressive the way Jason is sourcing the different pieces."

The company now faces the task of testing and validating its system, but that is a natural step, Eckert said.

"The business is evolving on a positive curve," he said. "It's a basic curve, a go-to-market curve."

But the appearance of charging posts at airports demonstrates the need for this kind of solution, Eckert said. Options that currently in place seem to be stopgaps, he said. Meanwhile, mobile technology in general continues a steep rise.

"The phones are getting better and better," Carrigan said. "The services are getting better and better. But the batteries, they're not developing on the same path."

While researchers are working to improve the built-in battery technology in phones, no breakthroughs appear imminent, Palmer said. Even when battery life does dramatically improve, many people will hold older phones for years, needing a technological bridge, Carrigan said.

Carrigan and his partners said they feel an urgency to move quickly, to win the advantage of being first to launch this type of product.

"We're a first mover," Carrigan said. "There's no one else out there doing this."

They've filed patents. They need results from kiosks in the field to confirm and refine their approach. Then, the partners said, they can attract investors and begin spreading their network of MobileQubes across the country.



Crowd vote to play a role in JEDCO Challenge

MARCH 13, 2014

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and **First NBC Bank**, in partnership with the Jefferson Chamber and Idea Village, invite you to join us for the second annual JEDCO Challenge. This Jefferson Parish-based pitch competition, held during **New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW)**, will highlight five innovative startup companies with ties to Jefferson. The entrepreneurs behind these unique business ventures will take to the stage March 25th to compete for a grand prize package of in-kind services and direct capital valued at over \$60,000.

This year, we need YOUR HELP to choose the winner. During the competition, you'll have a chance to text your vote to the JEDCO Challenge to earn points for your favorite finalist. Each company will have just seven minutes to convince the crowd and our panel of judges that they deserve to walk away with all the winnings.

MEET OUR ENTREPRENEURS

ADVANO: ALEXANDER GIRAU

ADVANO is a nanotechnology company that specializes in the manufacturing of advanced materials called nanoparticles. Featuring a process coined Mechanochemical Attrition, ADVANO's process consolidates four necessary manufacturing steps into a single, simple, rapid, and scalable step, providing a viable source of nanoparticles at industrial scales and at efficiencies that rival processes use by industrial powerhouses. This robust process can revolutionize several multi-billion dollar markets ranging from gene therapy for cancer treatment to advanced lithium-ion batteries for mobile and automotive applications. Initially, ADVANO's market penetration strategy will begin in the lithium-ion battery space mainly due to the adoption of silicon nanoparticles as electrode materials. As the demand of lithium-ion battery-based mobile phones and automobiles grows exponentially, a large source of silicon nanoparticles will be needed. ADVANO is able to rapidly and efficiently fulfill this need. Learn more on [ADVANO's website](#).

THE COLLECTOR: ALEX GOSS AND MICHAEL ANGLE

Collecting money from friends for Fantasy Football leagues, March Madness brackets, and group vacations is a pain. No longer. A new website has developed a way to make collecting money from friends easy and effective. Developed locally by Revelry Labs, The Collector takes a three-pronged approach to getting paid by your pals: payments, reminders and organization. Your friends aren't asked to download, sign up, or link a bank account, so there's no excuse not to pay. Debtors simply use their credit cards or PayPal accounts on a secure checkout screen, and the debt is paid. For those "forgetful" friends, The Collector sends out automatic reminder emails on the organizer's behalf until he/she is paid. Lastly, The Collector creates a convenient dashboard to organize who's paid and who hasn't. No more spreadsheets needed! It's the most painless and effective way to collect money from your friends...period. Learn more on [The Collector's website](#).

GETHEALTHY: BLAINE LINDSEY

GetHealthy is an evidence-based health and wellness platform that develops customized solutions and services for direct pay physicians, employers, and insurance providers seeking to engage and improve the health of their patients, employees and policyholders. GetHealthy drives engagement by delivering meaningful, peer-reviewed health optimization services through comprehensive, creative, and personalized interventions. Learn more on [GetHealthy's website](#).

MOBILEQUBES: SEAN CARRIGAN, JASON PALMER, MIKE MELITO

MobileQubes is the world's first self-automated Kiosk that dispenses high capacity smart phone batteries called "Qubes" that customers can rent and return for a low-cost wireless and cord free charging solution. The Kiosks will be strategically placed in high-traffic venues within facilities across the country to solve the on-going issue and problem that 165 million U.S. mobile phone users struggle with every day, a dead or dying cell phone. It's a simple and an extremely affordable Plug and Go Mobile Device charging solution. "MobileQubes. Mobile Power. Untethered." Learn more on the [MobileQubes website](#).

PORTAVISION: TERRY ANCAR

PortaVision Medical designed and manufactured the NeoRay Portable Digital X-Ray System. NeoRay is the first FDA-approved portable X-Ray system optimized for neonatal X-Ray imaging. Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) worldwide rely on the same X-Ray devices used on adults for imaging of fragile premature infant patients. The NeoRay is a small, compact system that is specially designed to be used in NICUs to provide radiographic and fluoroscopic capabilities at the incubator. In comparison to the 1200 lb. X-Ray systems currently being used, the NeoRay will greatly enhance and improve the outcome of preterm babies by saving imaging time, reducing infant radiation exposure, and improving a physician's ability to make critical treatment decisions quickly. Learn more on [PortaVision's website](#).

It's all happening on March 25th from 2:00 – 4:30at Southport Hall (200 Monticello Avenue, New Orleans). The Challenge is free and open to all. Join us to celebrate creativity, applaud innovation and support our local entrepreneurs. It's an event you won't want to miss! For more information, visit the [JEDCO Challenge Information Center](#). To register, [click here!](#)

This event would not be possible without assistance from our Jefferson Parish businesses and organizations. We would like to thank the following for their sponsorship of the event: [First NBC Bank](#), [Sandler Training](#), [1st Lake Properties](#), [Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#), [Business Innovation Center at Churchill](#), [Baker Donelson](#), [Compucast Web Design](#), [Cordina New Orleans Cocktails](#), [Cox Communications](#), [LaPorte](#), [LSBDC GNOR](#), [Gillis, Ellis & Baker](#), [MMI Culinary Services](#), [MS Benbow & Associates](#), [Postlethwaite & Netterville](#), [Gambel Communications](#), [Ardyn Thriffily and Associates](#), and [A Journey to Success](#).



Jefferson Parish business competition announces finalists for its New Orleans Entrepreneur Week event



An image from the website of the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission in December 2013. (JEDCO)



By [Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on February 26, 2014 at 11:44 AM, updated February 26, 2014 at 11:45 AM

Five startups will compete for a package of \$50,000 in cash and donated professional services in the **Jefferson Parish Economic Development business pitch competition** next month. **JEDCO** announced the finalists on Wednesday:

- **ADVANO:** A company by entrepreneur Alexander Girau that manufactures nanoparticles needed for lithium-ion batteries, medical uses such as gene therapy for cancer treatment and other technologies.
- **The Collector:** An Internet site by Alex Goss and Michael Angle that aims to help groups of people organize and track money collecting for activities such as fantasy football leagues, basketball championship brackets and vacations with friends.
- **GetHealthy:** A program by Blaine Lindsey for doctors, employers and insurance providers to encourage healthfulness among their patients, employees and policyholders.

- **MobileQubes:** A system of kiosks in travel hubs and other high-traffic locations that rent out batteries to preserve the usability of mobile phones, developed by Sean Carrigan, Jason Palmer, Mike Melito.
- **PortaVision:** A portable, digital, X-ray system for neonatal intensive care units from entrepreneur Terry Ancar.

In its second year hosting a business competition for enterprises with Jefferson Parish ties, alongside **New Orleans Entrepreneur Week** in March, JEDCO received more than 40 applications.

The finalists will make their presentations on March 25 at 2 p.m. at Southport Hall near the Mississippi River and the New Orleans and Jefferson Parish line on the east bank. A panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders will serve as judges. Final scoring will factor in the judges' ratings of the live pitches, business plans submitted in advance and an audience vote.

New at NOEW: JEDCO Challenge finalists

By: Natalie Chandler, Managing Editor February 27, 2014 0

Editor's note: Ahead of New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, March 22-28, our feature New at NOEW offers a glimpse of the individuals, companies and issues that will be part of the discussions.

A startup that produces a portable X-ray system for premature babies, another that offers battery rentals for cellphones and a website that makes it easier to collect money are among the business ideas that will be part a Jefferson Parish-based pitch competition.

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission and First NBC Bank this week announced five companies selected to pitch their products during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, March 22-28.

Four of those are making their NOEW debut:

Company: Advano

Founder: Alexander Girau

Product/service: A process that consolidates the manufacturing of nanoparticles, which can be used in everything from gene therapy for cancer treatment to lithium-ion battery-based cellphones and automobiles.

Company: The Collector

Founders: Alex Goss, Michael Angle

Product/service: A website that streamlines the process of collecting money, whether it be from participants of a Fantasy Football league, March Madness brackets or group vacations. Debtors use their credit cards or PayPal accounts, and automatic emails are sent to remind those who forget. A dashboard helps organize the names of those who have and haven't paid.

Company: MobileQubes

Founders: Sean Carrigan, Jason Palmer, Mike Melito

Product/service: An automated kiosk that dispenses smartphone batteries that can be rented and returned. The kiosk is placed in high-traffic facilities across the country to help people recharge dead or dying cellphones.

Company: PortaVision

Founder: Terry Ancar

Product/service: A Food and Drug Administration-approved portable X-ray system for neonatal imaging. Hospitals have relied on the same X-ray devices used on adults to examine premature babies. The company says its product saves imaging times, reduces infants' exposure to radiation and helps doctors make decisions on treatment more quickly.

A fifth finalist, **GetHealthy**, has pitched its service at previous NOEW events. Founded by Blaine Lindsey, the company develops services for direct-pay physicians, employers and insurance providers who want to improve the health of their patients, employees and policyholders.

A selection committee of business leaders chose the finalists from a list of 40 applicants with ties to Jefferson Parish, according to a JEDCO press release.

On March 25, each finalist will have seven minutes to pitch their product in front of an audience of Jefferson Parish business leaders.

They will also be scored on their business plan and a vote from the audience.

The winner will receive in-kind business services and direct capital valued at more than \$50,000.

SILICON BAYOU NEWS



JEDCO Challenge Finalists Announced

[Julia Ballard](#) | February 27, 2014 | [0 Comments](#)

The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) and sponsor [First NBC Bank](#) have partnered with the [Jefferson Chamber](#) and [Idea Village](#) for the second annual JEDCO Challenge.



The organization narrowed down over 40 applications to select the five finalists that will compete in the second annual Jefferson Parish-based pitch competition during [New Orleans Entrepreneur Week \(NOEW\)](#) on March 25th.

More information about the five finalists is below:

ADVANO

Entrepreneur: Alexander Girau

ADVANO is a nanotechnology company that specializes in the manufacturing of advanced materials called nanoparticles. Featuring a process coined Mechanochemical Attrition, ADVANO's process consolidates four necessary manufacturing steps into a single, simple, rapid, and scalable step, providing a viable source of nanoparticles at industrial scales and at efficiencies that rival processes used by industrial powerhouses. This robust process can revolutionize several multi-billion dollar markets ranging from gene therapy for cancer treatment to advanced lithium-ion batteries for mobile and automotive applications. Initially, ADVANO's market penetration strategy will begin in the lithium-ion battery space mainly due to the adoption of silicon nanoparticles as electrode materials. As the demand of lithium-ion battery-based mobile phones and automobiles grows exponentially, a large source of silicon nanoparticles will be needed. ADVANO is able to rapidly and efficiently fulfill this need. Learn more on [ADVANO's website](#).

The Collector

Entrepreneurs: Alex Goss and Michael Angle

Collecting money from friends for Fantasy Football leagues, March Madness brackets, and group vacations is a pain. No longer. A new website has developed a way to make collecting money from friends easy and effective. Developed locally by Revelry Labs, The Collector takes a three-pronged approach to getting paid by your pals: payments, reminders and organization. Your friends aren't asked to download, signup, or link a bank account, so there's no excuse not to pay. Debtors simply use their credit cards or PayPal accounts on a secure checkout screen, and the debt is paid. For those "forgetful" friends, The Collector sends out automatic reminder emails on the organizer's behalf until he/she is paid. Lastly, The Collector creates a convenient dashboard to organize who's paid and who hasn't. No more spreadsheets needed! It's the most painless and effective way to collect money from your friends...period. Learn more on [The Collector's website](#).

GetHealthy

Entrepreneur: Blaine Lindsey

GetHealthy is an evidence-based health and wellness platform that develops customized solutions and services for direct pay physicians, employers, and insurance providers seeking to engage and improve the health of their patients,

employees and policyholders. GetHealthy drives engagement by delivering meaningful, peer-reviewed health optimization services through comprehensive, creative, and personalized interventions. Learn more on [GetHealthy's website](#).

MobileQubes

Entrepreneurs: Sean Carrigan, Jason Palmer, Mike Melito

MobileQubes is the world's first self-automated Kiosk that dispenses high capacity smart phone batteries called "Qubes" that customers can rent and return for a low-cost wireless and cord free charging solution. The Kiosks will be strategically placed in high-traffic venues within facilities across the country to solve the on-going issue and problem that 165 million U.S. mobile phone users struggle with every day, a dead or dying cell phone. It's a simple and an extremely affordable Plug and Go Mobile Device charging solution. "MobileQubes. Mobile Power. Untethered." Learn more on the [MobileQubes website](#).

PortaVision

Entrepreneur: Terry Ancar

PortaVision Medical designed and manufactured the NeoRay Portable Digital X-Ray System. NeoRay is the first FDA-approved portable X-Ray system optimized for neonatal X-Ray imaging. Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) worldwide rely on the same X-Ray devices used on adults for imaging of fragile premature infant patients. The NeoRay is a small, compact system that is specially designed to be used in NICUs to provide radiographic and fluoroscopic capabilities at the incubator. In comparison to the 1200 lb. X-Ray systems currently being used, the NeoRay will greatly enhance and improve the outcome of preterm babies by saving imaging time, reducing infant radiation exposure, and improving a physician's ability to make critical treatment decisions quickly. Learn more on [PortaVision's website](#).

"We are overwhelmed by the caliber of the entrepreneurs who applied for this competition," says JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna. "We have so many unique startup companies that play a role in the region's successes and choosing from such a deep pool of talent was a truly difficult task. These five companies chosen to compete in the JEDCO Challenge represent a diverse base of some of the most innovative minds in our area. I look forward to seeing the impact they will have on the Jefferson Parish community."

"The JEDCO Challenge provides a wonderful platform for the companies participating," says First NBC Bank President & CEO Ashton J. Ryan Jr. "Not only does it connect these entrepreneurs with businessmen and women who can help them grow and achieve success in Jefferson Parish, but it also gives our community a real opportunity to see the true talent, energy and creativity present in our community right now."



PRESS RELEASE
February 26, 2014

JEDCO Challenge Finalists Announced

Five startups will compete in second annual pitch event

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and First NBC Bank, in partnership with the Jefferson Chamber and Idea Village, are pleased to introduce the five companies that will compete in the second annual Jefferson Parish-based pitch competition during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW).

JEDCO received over 40 applications for the JEDCO Challenge from entrepreneurs with ties to Jefferson Parish. Through a rigorous review process, a selection committee of business leaders chose five companies to participate in the pitch event. From healthcare and advanced manufacturing to a wide spectrum of technology-based products, the finalists have companies that fall into a range of industries.

MEET OUR ENTREPRENEURS

ADVANO: Alexander Girau

ADVANO is a nanotechnology company that specializes in the manufacturing of advanced materials called nanoparticles. Featuring a process coined Mechanochemical Attrition, ADVANO's process consolidates four necessary manufacturing steps into a single, simple, rapid, and scalable step, providing a viable source of nanoparticles at industrial scales and at efficiencies that rival processes used by industrial powerhouses. This robust process can revolutionize several multi-billion dollar markets ranging from gene therapy for cancer treatment to advanced lithium-ion batteries for mobile and automotive applications. Initially, ADVANO's market penetration strategy will begin in the lithium-ion battery space mainly due to the adoption of silicon nanoparticles as electrode materials. As the demand of lithium-ion battery-based mobile phones and automobiles grows exponentially, a large source of silicon nanoparticles will be needed. ADVANO is able to rapidly and efficiently fulfill this need. Learn more on [ADVANO's website](#).

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The finalists will compete during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week on March 25th at Southport Hall. The event starts at 2:00. Each company will have seven minutes to do a live pitch in front of a panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders. Entrepreneurs will be scored based upon the live pitch, a business plan submitted in advance of the competition and crowd vote. JEDCO will give the crowd an opportunity to choose their favorite pitch. A small number of points will be awarded to the crowd favorite and added to the overall score. The winning pitch will receive a prize package of in-kind business services and direct capital valued at over \$50,000 and still growing.

The JEDCO Challenge was brought to life last year to identify, engage with and assist our up-and-coming innovators. The goal of the competition is to elevate opportunities for local entrepreneurs in the area

through direct capital, business services, increased visibility and mentorship.

Click [here](#) to attend the JEDCO Challenge and visit the [JEDCO Challenge Information Center](#) for continued updates on our finalists, our judge's panel and our prize package.

This event would not be possible without assistance from our Jefferson Parish businesses and organizations. We would like to thank the following for their sponsorship of the event: [First NBC Bank](#), [Sandler Training](#), [Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#), [Business Innovation Center at Churchill](#), [Baker Donelson](#), [Compucast Web Design](#), [Cordina New Orleans Cocktails](#), [Cox Communications](#), [LSBDC](#), [GNOR](#), [Gillis, Ellis & Baker](#), [MMI Culinary Services](#), [Postlethwaite & Netterville](#), [LaPorte CPAs and Business Advisors](#), [Gambel Communications](#), [Ardyn Thriffily and Associates](#), and [A Journey to Success](#).

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About JEDCO: The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is an independent, yet complementary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing and creating new business in our area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship and investment in Jefferson Parish.

About First NBC Bank: First NBC Bank received a charter to begin operation from the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions in May 2006. Through overwhelming support from the local community, the Bank's initial capital footings exceeded \$60 million, which set a record for the largest initial capital raised by a Louisiana chartered institution. There are 31 banking offices on the South and North Shores of the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area. First NBC Bank has been selected as one of the Best Places to Work six times in a row *New Orleans CityBusiness*. The bank's mission is to deliver world-class service through developing long-term relationships with clients while providing a great place to work for its employees and demonstrating outstanding corporate citizenship within its communities, resulting in exceptional returns for its shareholders.

About New Orleans Entrepreneur Week: The entrepreneur challenge will be held during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week for the second year in a row. The culmination of the Idea Village's annual Entrepreneur Season, NOEW has become the premiere showcase event for the New Orleans entrepreneurial ecosystem. NOEW 2014 is expected to engage 5,000+ of the nation's most innovative business leaders, financiers, entrepreneurs and students.

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PRESS RELEASE
March 11, 2014

Innovate Jefferson *January/February 2014 Newsletter*

(AVONDALE, La) -- Jefferson Parish thrives off of small business and entrepreneurship. Cordina New Orleans Cocktails. Geocent. Smoothie King. These companies got their start right here in our community and have grown into nationally and internationally-recognized brands. Those are just a few of our homegrown companies that have experienced long-term success in Jefferson.

Part of [JEDCO's](#) mission has always been to positively impact the economic climate through entrepreneurship. Over the years, we have fostered startup companies in our business incubators, arming entrepreneurs with the tools they need to grow. While we are proud to have played a role in the victories that some of these companies have experienced, we are even more honored to see first-hand the passion and hard work that goes into bringing a company to life. The men and women who have the courage and innovative spirit to start their own companies deserve to be celebrated.

And celebrate we will! What better way to pay tribute to hard work and creativity than with a little friendly competition? In just two weeks, JEDCO and First NBC Bank will host the second annual [JEDCO Challenge](#), a pitch competition held during [New Orleans Entrepreneur Week](#) (NOEW). We are pleased to present [five incredibly innovative companies](#) that will compete for a prize package of in-kind business services and direct capital currently valued at over \$60,000, [thanks to our wonderful sponsors](#). Join us on March 25th at Southport Hall to vote for your favorite pitch. [Register online](#). We'd love to see you there!

In January, we also launched [Grow with JEDCO](#), a brand new educational seminar series for small businesses and startups. It is our goal to connect our businesses with people and information that can move a company to the next level of success. Our next Grow with JEDCO session, focusing on Human Resources, will be held on April 2nd. Registration for that event will open next week.

If you're looking for low-rent business incubator space, JEDCO has you covered. [The Business Innovation Center at Churchill](#) is a state-of-the-art facility geared towards high-growth ventures. We have offices available for rent right now.

BUSINESS BLURBS

JEDCO is proud to announce the groundbreaking of [Chronos Body, Health & Wellness](#). This full-service wellness center will be located in the heart of Fat City, breathing new life into the community. Of the \$4 million dollar project, JEDCO financed more than \$1.6 million of it for equipment, working capital and real estate costs.

Lakeside Shopping Center [announced plans](#) to open the first Cheesecake Factory in Louisiana, while also detailing plans to expand.

If you were in New Orleans a few weeks ago, you may have noticed your favorite NBA player plastered to one of the buildings downtown. That was the work of Jefferson Parish company, [Crystal Clear Imaging](#). JEDCO assisted CCI in the past and we're thrilled to see the company finding so much success.

Last year, JEDCO helped to bring the Smoothie King international headquarters [back to Jefferson Parish](#) and the company has already made a huge splash in the community. Just last month, Smoothie King announced a partnership with the New Orleans Pelicans, [landing the naming rights to the arena the city's NBA team calls home](#).

ECONOMIC ACCOLADES

Jefferson Parish Councilwoman, Cynthia Lee Sheng, will receive [national recognition](#) for her work to revitalize Fat City. The American Planning Association will award her the National Planning Excellence Award for a Planning Advocate on April 29th at the organization's annual conference in Atlanta.

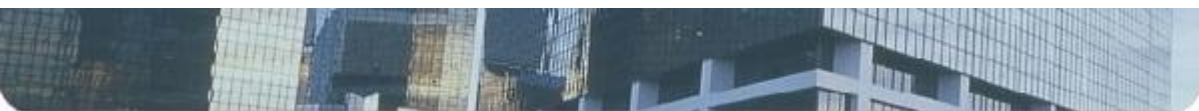
Several Jefferson Parish companies landed on Business Insider's list of [17 Coolest Small Businesses in New Orleans](#), including Cordina New Orleans Cocktails, Jeriko House and South Coast Solar.

As always, JEDCO continues to work diligently to improve the economic climate in Jefferson Parish through business retention, expansion and attraction. Our team is at the ready to assist your business needs.

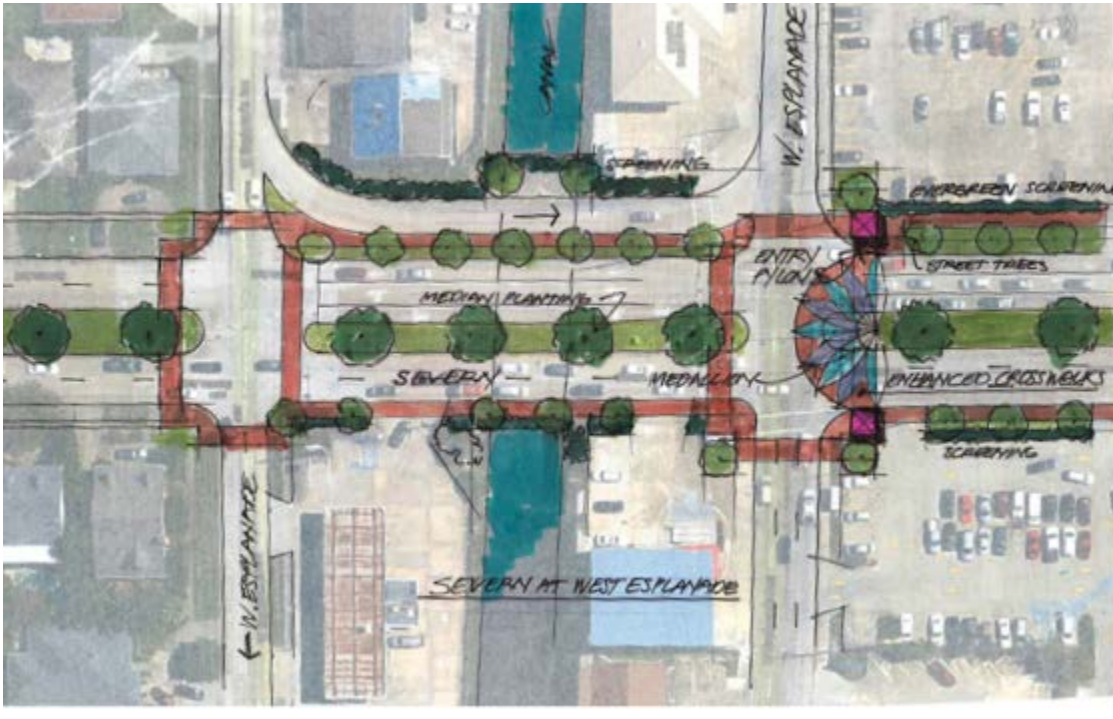
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Canal Street Beat



Developers Break Ground On \$4 Million Wellness Facility In Fat City

Yesterday the developers of Chronos Body, Health and Wellness broke ground on a brand new fitness facility in Fat City.

Once completed, Chronos Body, Health & Wellness will be a full-service wellness center that provides all services in a single complex. The 13,000-square-foot facility was purchased in February 2013 and is currently undergoing an extensive renovation.

Of the \$4 million dollar project, the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) financed over \$1.6 million of it for equipment, working capital and real estate costs.

The shared vision of Dr. Mace Scott and Dr. Miguel Aguilera, along with partner Dr. John Higginbotham, Chronos breathes new life into Fat City.

“We are thrilled to see this project come to fruition,” says Jerry Bologna, the executive director of JEDCO. “JEDCO identified Fat City as an area of focus and revitalization many years ago and we have worked in coordination with the Jefferson Parish Council and Administration to improve the area through economic development projects.

“We are delighted to welcome Chronos Body, Health & Wellness to Jefferson Parish and look forward to its contribution to the continued revitalization of Fat City. This unique wellness center concept is the first of its kind in the greater New Orleans area and we are proud Chronos chose to make this significant investment here in Jefferson Parish,” adds Jefferson Parish President John Young.

“I am so very excited about the new body, health and wellness facility under construction in Fat City. The owners’ decision to purchase, invest, renovate and revitalize an existing, partially vacant building, is the key to changing Fat City into a bustling and vibrant neighborhood once again,” says Jefferson Parish Councilwoman (District 5) Cynthia Lee-Sheng. “This year is starting out strong for us and with the groundbreaking of Chronos Body, Health & Wellness we continue to make great strides in seeing this neighborhood change right before our eyes. The concept of beauty, health and wellness – all under one roof – is so innovative and we are proud that the owners chose to deliver these services right here in Fat City.”

Chronos will offer a wide array of services to meet the needs of its customers. Not only will Chronos house a 24-hour fitness center, but it will also provide physician-supervised, non-surgical cosmetic services, weight loss management services and spa/salon services. The facility, located at 3200 N. Arnoult Road, is slated to open in June 2014.

JEDCO to Host Pitch Prep Seminar to Help Local Businesses Get Funded

[Julia Ballard](#) | February 25, 2014 | [0 Comments](#)



The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) wants to help take local small businesses to the next level by offering a pitch preparation seminar on February 26th from 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

“A good pitch can often times make the difference between landing the funding to bring a dream into reality or coming up empty-handed. A successful pitch takes preparation, communication and knowledge of your target audience,” JEDCO announced.

The seminar, part of the Grow with JEDCO series, will be hosted by business and communication experts Aimee Freeman of Aimee Freeman Consulting and Brian Greffenius of Sandler Training. “Get Funded Fast: A Climber’s Guide to the Perfect” hopes to improve businesses’ chances of obtaining financing.

The seminar will cover topics such as how to identify your target audience, tools to strengthen pitch preparation, the main components of successful communication, major mistakes entrepreneurs consistently make and how to overcome them and tips to help better sell your ideas.

Admission is free but [registration is required](#).

Jindal: Louisiana has more skilled jobs available than people to fill them



Posted on March 28, 2014 at 7:28 PM

Updated Friday, Mar 28 at 7:40 PM

Paul Murphy / Eyewitness News

Email: pmurphy@wwltv.com | Twitter: [@pmurphywwl](https://twitter.com/pmurphywwl)

HARVEY, La. - Dyno Nobel America is now building an \$850 million ammonia production facility on the Westbank of Jefferson Parish. Friday, Governor Bobby Jindal told a gathering of business and civic leaders not far from the site, that Louisiana needs to do a better job preparing workers for the types of jobs Dyno Nobel and other manufactures are now bringing to the state.

"Today, one of our biggest problems is we have more skilled jobs than we've got skilled people to fill those jobs," said Jindal. "Today, we need 86,000 skilled construction works just to fill the projects we've already announced."

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission Executive Director Jerry Bologna says a skilled workforce is critical. "It's certainly a concern when companies look to come in or expand, it's a concern whether

or not that workforce is going to be here, whether or not they can find the folks to fill those positions," said Bologna.

Governor Jindal says it's time to invest in Louisiana's renaissance. His budget proposal calls for a \$141 million increase in higher education spending and additional money for technical training for high school students. "The idea is to teach our high school kids even before they leave high school, give them the technical training they need," said Jindal. "We need to be training those welders, those IT techs, we need to be training those healthcare professionals. There are thousands of good paying jobs we could fill today if we had the trained people."

"They are well paying jobs with benefits," said Bologna. "Those are the ones we want to see in this region. The effort we make toward workforce development gets our people into those jobs." State Senator David Heitmeier, D-Algiers, says additional investment in workforce training is needed. "The more that we communicate with industry and academia, the more jobs that we'll have available, right out of college, good paying jobs to increase jobs for Louisiana," said Heitmeier.

Dyno Nobel America expects to begin ammonia production in 2016.



PRESS RELEASE
March 27, 2014

JEDCO Hosts Human Resources Seminar for Small Businesses

(METAIRIE, La) -- Does your company have the right people in the right jobs? Recruiting, hiring and training are vital components to improving the success of your growing company. The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and Simmons & White have tips to help you better know and understand your employees' strengths and weaknesses and how they will impact your business.

As part of the [Grow with JEDCO](#) series, the economic development commission will host "Human Resources: Their importance for Growing (and all) Companies." [Simmons & White](#) consultant, Clayton White, will cover a variety of topics relating to best HR practices, including:

- How HR Works
- HR Basics
- How to put the right people in the right job doing the right things
- Tips for hiring the best people
- Intangibles of bad HR and its cost
- HR and protecting your company

Join us on **April 2nd** at the **East Bank Regional Library's Jefferson Room (4747 W. Napoleon Ave. Metairie) from 9:00-10:30**. Admission is free, but registration is required to attend. The event is open to all businesses and entrepreneurs. Click [here](#) to register. For more information, contact Alan Allgood at (504) 875-3928 or aallgood@jedco.org

###

About JEDCO: JEDCO is an independent, yet complementary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing and creating new business in our area. Since its inception in 1987, JEDCO has aided thousands of companies through [business incubator](#) and [loan programs, tax incentives and rebate programs, workforce development](#) and information services. While dedicated to

assisting existing Jefferson Parish businesses, JEDCO's efforts also target the recruitment of new businesses for the area.

About the Business Innovation Center at Churchill: The Business Innovation Center at Churchill provides a place to develop up-and-coming businesses. Not only can startups find office space at below-market rent, but the incubator program is designed to connect business innovators, market experts and capital providers to transform business ideas into viable business ventures. The Business Innovation Center at Churchill provides an atmosphere in which startup businesses can survive and prosper.

Simmons & White: A local consulting firm, Simmons & White partners with high-potential companies to navigate challenges and opportunities. Whether you are troubleshooting management issues, seeking best practices, or exploring new ways to grow, our team of experts can help. Simmons & White provides a comprehensive range of services in the areas of financial management, business process improvement, sales and marketing, access to capital, policies and procedures, risk management, strategy and technology.

About Clayton White: Clayton White has over 25 years of experience working with startup and early-stage companies. His background includes organizational structure, mergers and acquisitions, financial management and controls, capital structure, and corporate governance. He has taken companies through the venture capital process and is currently involved in company valuations, due diligence, planning, capitalization, and exit strategies. Mr. White is a member and organizer of the South Coast Angel Fund. The South Coast Angel Fund is a member-managed angel capital fund designed to utilize the capital, resources, and expertise of its members to profit from its investments in entrepreneurial, early-stage companies in Louisiana. Mr. White has a B.S. in Physics, an MBA, and a Juris Doctor. He is a member of the Louisiana and Alabama Bar. He sits on the boards of several companies, non-profits, and community organizations. Learn more about Simmons & White at <http://www.simmonswhite.com/>

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Grow with JEDCO presents

Human Resources: Their Importance for Growing (and all) Companies

DOES YOUR COMPANY HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE DOING THE RIGHT JOB?

Recruiting, hiring and training effectively can have a big and positive impact on the success of your growing company. That's the philosophy behind the third small business seminar in the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission's educational business series, **Grow with JEDCO.**

In this seminar, you'll learn:

- HR basics
- Tips for hiring the best people
- Intangibles of bad HR and its cost

Clayton White of Simmons & White offers his expert guidance on best human resources practices and what they mean for your small business.

Grow with JEDCO is a new educational series for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Throughout the year, JEDCO will host over a dozen events to help you grow and find success locally.

APRIL 2, 2014

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

East Bank Regional Library

Jefferson Room

4747 W. Napoleon Avenue

Metairie, La 70001

Register for this **FREE** event at
www.jedco.org or call
(504) 875-3908.