



Celebrate Creativity. Connect with Your Community. Challenge Yourself!

Collaboration: JEDCO, in partnership with the Jefferson Chamber and Idea Village, will **issue a challenge** to Jefferson Parish entrepreneurs. Last year, we worked with Cordina New Orleans Cocktails to create the first-ever Jefferson Parish pitch competition. It was so successful, we're doing it again!

Challenge: We're giving entrepreneurs the chance to pitch their ventures in front of a live audience and a judging panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW). The winning pitch will receive a prize package of in-kind services and direct capital. **Last year's prize package was valued at more than \$50,000.**

Criteria: Entrepreneur must: live, work or have a strong presence in **Jefferson Parish**, generate less than **\$1 million**, have less than **10 employees**, be a **for-profit company**. We're looking for innovative ventures with high potential to grow, expand and positively impact the region.

Collect: The pitch winner will receive a prize package of in-kind services and direct capital that will assist startups in their plans to grow and expand in Jefferson Parish. Highlights include: pro bono legal hours, marketing assistance, business consulting, Chamber membership, incubator space, accounting assistance and direct capital. **Billy Bosch, of Be Well Nutrition Inc.,** won top prize in 2013.

Connect: We want to showcase the **entrepreneurial ecosystem** in Jefferson Parish. The challenge seeks to elevate entrepreneurship opportunities, connecting our up-and-comers with today's business leaders through direct capital, business resources and mentorship opportunities.

New Orleans Entrepreneur Week: New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW), the culmination of The Idea Village's annual Entrepreneur Season, has become the premier 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.

Compete: The application for the 2014 pitch competition opened January 7th. Our finalists will be chosen by the end of February and they'll receive pitch feedback and business plan assistance from experts in advance of the official competition.

Contribute: Want to connect with our **up-and-coming** entrepreneurs? Interested in contributing an in-kind donation? We're on the lookout for prize package sponsorship today! Call (504) 875-3927 for details!

Questions? Contact Kelsey Scram at (504) 875-3927 or kscram@jedco.org or visit www.jedco.org/jedco-entrepreneur-challenge/

Sponsors Include: A Journey to Success, Ardyn Thriffily & Associates, Baker Donelson, Business Innovation Center at Churchill, Compucast Web Design, Cordina New Orleans Cocktails, Cox 4, Gambel Communications, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce & MMI Culinary Services.