

Henry & Stark Counties  
Fast Pitch  
“Big Idea” Competition!  
APPLICATION FORM



**What is a Fast Pitch?** Entrepreneurs are given 10 minutes to pitch their business or business concepts to a group of judges from the business and investment communities during a confidential, private presentation. This forum allows for creative and interesting concepts from people in the region to be showcased and for these entrepreneurs to learn what it takes to advance their ideas and make them a reality.

**Who Can Enter?** Anyone who is a resident or business owner in Henry or Stark County, IL.

**When: April 17, 2012** (Note: See Entry Requirements: for pre-event sessions and deadlines, beginning in February)

**Where:** Community Education Center, Black Hawk College, 404 East 3rd Street, Kewanee, IL

**Details: On the website:** [www.henrystarkfastpitch.org](http://www.henrystarkfastpitch.org)

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Select Your Competition Category:

- Retail** An innovative plan for a new retail business or ways to improve an existing retail business.
- Business** An innovative idea in areas like Agriculture, Technology, and other non-retail areas.
- Got an idea?** Jump-start a novel business idea.
- Student Category** Henry & Stark County high school and college students present their business ideas.

**Business Description:** *Briefly describe the general nature of your company or novel business idea, where you will locate your operation, and what is unique about your company or idea.*

**Company Background / Novel Idea Summary:** *Provide a short summary of your company background or novel business idea.*

## Entries will be in the following categories

- **Retail** - Got an innovative plan for a new retail store or ways to improve an existing one?
- **Non-Retail/Manufacturing** - Have an innovative plan for a business or product in Agriculture, Manufacturing, Technology, and other non-retail?

**Prize Package:** In these two categories you could win a Prize Package valued at \$30,000 that includes CASH, \$25,000 in radio advertising from Regional Media, and professional consultation from Midwest IP Institute—home to leaders in engineering, marketing, technology, and more!

- **Got an idea?** Jump-start a novel business idea or invention - for adults 18 and older!

**Prize Package:** Winner gets resources to learn business basics with a new ipad, a \$400 tuition waiver to the Black Hawk College's IL SBDC certification program, advice from a professional business consultant, and \$25,000 in radio advertising from Regional Media!

- **Student Category** - Henry & Stark County high school and college students can present their "Big Idea"!

**Prize Package:** Winner gets a new ipad, \$400 tuition waiver to Black Hawk College's IL SBDC certification program, professional advice and a "Street Sense Marketing Bootcamp" opportunity!

## Presentation Requirements:

- Participants are allowed a 10 minute presentation that includes an elevator speech, followed by 3-4 minute presentation and 3-4 minute questions and answer session.
- PowerPoint presentations are not allowed; no exceptions.
- Use of a flip chart is permissible.
- Use of a product sample is permissible.

## Entry Requirements:

### **February 21, Find out Meeting—6:00 p.m.**

Attend this highly recommended informational meeting at the Community Education Center in Kewanee. Here you'll learn what a Fast Pitch is, and all that is involved in this program. Walk-ins welcome but RSPV appreciated by Feb 17. Register online: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs>.

### **March 1, Application Deadline**

Applications available on the website: [www.henrystarkfastpitch.org](http://www.henrystarkfastpitch.org). Must be received or postmarked by March 1st to University of Illinois Extension, 321 West 2nd Ave., Milan, IL 61264.

*Eligibility to present will be determined by the Fast Pitch Committee.*

### **March 20: Mock Fast Pitch –**

You'll be given the opportunity to practice your fast pitch and get a critique at the Community Education Center

### **April 17: Henry & Stark Counties Fast Pitch**

Time to shine! Showcase your idea to judges at the Community Education Center, Kewanee, IL.

**Winners Announced, Prizes Awarded!**

## Registration:

There is no fee to register. Go to University of Illinois Extension's web site: [web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs) and register online or call (309) 756-9978.

