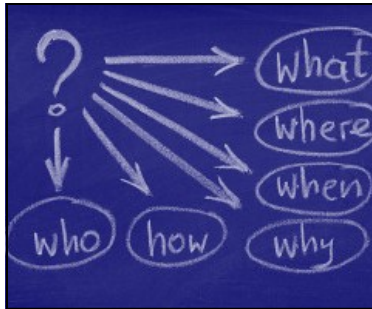


Entrepreneurs Wanted!

Enter the Henry & Stark Counties Fast Pitch Competition to WIN \$30,000 in Prize Packages To Launch Your Idea!

Find out Meeting, Tuesday, February 21, 6 pm,
Black Hawk College's Community Education Center



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

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

Details: On the website: www.henrystarkfastpitch.org



**Showcase Your Idea to Key Leaders!
Win Resources, Prizes, and Cash
to Launch Your 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 or improvement of 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 the Midwest IP Institute - home to leaders in engineering, marketing, and technology!

- **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 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, a \$400 tuition waiver to Black Hawk College's IL SBDC certification program, advice from professionals, and a "Street Sense Marketing Bootcamp"!

Presentation Requirements: Participants are allowed a 10 minute presentation that includes an elevator speech, followed by a 3-4 minute presentation and a 3-4 minute question 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 pm,
Community Education Center, Black Hawk
College, Kewanee, IL**

Attend this highly recommended informational meeting to learn about the Fast Pitch process and how to apply. Walk-ins welcome but RSVP appreciated by Friday, February 17, 2012.

Register online: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs>.

March 1, Application Deadline

Application is at the bottom of this mailer. Applications and instructions are also available on the website: www.henrystarkfastpitch.org.

Must be received or postmarked by March 1 to University of Illinois Extension, 321 W. 2nd Ave., Milan, IL 61264

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

March 20: Mock Fast Pitch

If selected, you'll be given the opportunity to practice your Fast Pitch and get a critique to help in your final effort.

April 17: Henry & Stark Counties Fast Pitch

Time to shine! Showcase your idea to professional 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 and register online. If you have questions, call Jenny Garner at (309) 756-9978.

Event Sponsors: This opportunity is made possible by the following organizations and businesses:



Midwest Intellectual Property
Management Institute

