

Social Enterprise Associates
Tip Sheet #4

This document presents favorite business plan competitions for triple bottom line endeavors.

Such efforts provide inexpensive opportunities for new ventures and good causes to access resources.

'SR' Competitions Summary

Entering competitions to improve & promote your social innovation efforts

Introduction

In addition to mainstream business plan competitions with special prizes for socially minded efforts, there are a number of contests that advance social entrepreneurship. They cover a range of formats, topics and geographies, offering awards of cash, investment and in-kind services. They are good channels to get feedback on ideas, promote new entities, access mentors, and network with like minded communities. This tip sheet presents Social Enterprise Associates' favorite triple bottom line competitions.

William James Foundation Sustainable Business Plan Competition

Website: www.williamjamesfoundation.org

Deadline: October 12, 2011

Focus: Business plans for for-profit entities with social, community and/or environmental objectives

Team: No restrictions

Prizes: \$140 K in prizes, including cash and in-kind products / professional services from sponsoring companies

Unreasonable Institute Fellowship

Website: <http://unreasonableinstitute.org>

Deadline: November 10, 2011

Focus: Entrepreneurs tackling social and environmental problems

Prizes: Participation in six-week mentorship program in Colorado Summer, 2012. Selected entrepreneurs work with fifty world-class mentors, pitch to one hundred potential investors and capital sources, and form relationships with twenty impact investment funds and foundations



Social Business Competition Summary, continued

Global Social Entrepreneurship Competition (GSEC)

Host: University of Washington

Website: <http://bschool.washington.edu/gsec>

Deadline: November 8, 2011

Focus: Social enterprises that address poverty in developing countries

Team: Student teams. Teams may have non-student members (i.e. advisors, etc.); only student members earn prize money

Prizes: Grand Prize (\$12,500), Global Health (\$10,000 total), Information & Communication Technology - ICT (\$10,000), and Seattle Rotary (\$1,000)

Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC)

Host: University of California at Berkeley

Website: www.gsvc.org

Deadline: Dates for 2011-12 to be announced. See www.gsvc.org/the_competition/calendar/

Focus: Any social venture

Team: Each team must include at least one current or recently graduated MBA student.

Prizes: Grand Prize (\$25,000), the Second Prize (\$10,000), the Third Prize (\$5,000), and a \$5,000 award to the team with the most innovative and rigorous social impact assessment.

Social Impact Business Plan Competition

Host: Duke University, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & Growth Philanthropy Network

Website: www.socialimpactexchange.org/bpc_overview.cfm

Deadline: TBA for Spring, 2012

Focus: U.S.-based nonprofit organizations in education, youth development, health, poverty alleviation or community economic development

Team: No restrictions. Two categories: early-stage & mezzanine

Prizes: Up to \$100,000 in financial and consulting awards

BiD Network National Partners & Sector Challenges

Website: www.bidnetwork.org/page/97620

Deadline: Ongoing by competition with different deadlines worldwide

Focus: For-profit businesses in developing countries. Themed tracks: clean energy, farmers, women, etc.

Team: No restrictions

Prizes: Potential investments \$10,000-\$1,000,000, mentorship, partnerships

For an exhaustive list (many of which are annual), visit the William James Foundation website at: www.williamjamesfoundation.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=905

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Social Enterprise Associates, a registered "B" Corporation, fosters 'triple bottom line' solutions supporting entrepreneurs, their organizations, and the industries in which they operate. This management consulting firm applies business and market principles to social, environmental and community efforts seeking to 'do well by doing good.' Specializations include raising capital, business plans, market research, new product development and operational implementing. Efforts have led to clients raising more than \$100 million.

Social Enterprise Associates is devoted to building a better tomorrow today. Reach **Managing Partner, Drew Tulchin**, by email drew@socialenterprise.NET or phone **202-256-2692**.