



MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE

AND CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP HOLDS "QUICK PITCH" COMPETITION



Quick Pitch competition winner Eric Gudenius (right), receives his award and a handshake from CFE Director Dr. Robert Snyder. Gudenius was one of eight Montgomery College students to present entrepreneurial ideas in a five-minute presentation to a panel of business professionals.

The Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship held its annual "Quick Pitch" business idea competition on November 30, on Montgomery College's Germantown Campus. Eight students competed from the Rockville and Germantown campuses by presenting their ideas before a panel of judges in five-minute presentations.

The winners were Eric Gudenius, whose idea was H2O—Hope to Others, a non-profit to help people in underdeveloped countries, and Kevin MacKay, whose idea was Real Estate

Investment in a North Carolina community. Each winner received a plaque, a \$250 prize and a commitment of continued support from the Center for Entrepreneurship to implement their ideas.

Eric Gudenius first developed his idea with friends in high school out of a desire to help fund water and other building projects in Africa. He and some friends traveled to Tanzania last summer to form friendships and contacts for their organization. They have already held several fund-raising concerts and sent the proceeds to an

organization supporting projects in Africa.

The experience with Quick Pitch has helped further motivate Gudenius to reach his goal. "The judges were very helpful with their suggestions," he said, "and even handed out their business cards to offer additional help."

Kevin MacKay's idea germinated from family plans to build a second home in a North Carolina coastal town. To take advantage of the town's potential growth as a resort community, MacKay plans to offer investment shares to individuals to finance real estate transactions in this growing market. "I am already in the process of looking for investors," said Kevin, "and working toward starting a successful business."

Judges for the competition were Duc Duong, president of DDI Associates and program director for the Montgomery County innovation centers; Raul Medrano, business development specialist with the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development; and Prashant Koirala, business develop-

ment associate with Focus, LLC, an investment banking firm.

The Quick Pitch competition was moderated by Dr. Robert Snyder, director of the Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship. Snyder encouraged competitors to move forward by entering their plans in the Entrepreneurial Expo business plan competition on April 5, 2008. The Entrepreneurial Expo is an annual event held in conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools at the Universities of Shady Grove. For information, call 240-567-1351.



The three judges are, from left to right, Prashant Koirala, Focus, LLC; Raul Medrano, Montgomery County Dept. of Economic Development (DED) and Duc Duong, DDI Associates.

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