



Start Peninsula Returns for A Fifth Year

Three-day event fosters entrepreneurship on the Peninsula

July 25th, Hampton, VA - Start Peninsula, a regional startup competition offering up to \$10,000 in prizes, returns to Hampton this November. The weekend event will be held at Thomas Nelson Community College's Workforce Development Center from Friday, November 4th through Sunday, November 6th, 2016.

Individuals who are considering starting a business are invited to pitch their business ideas on Friday evening to a panel of expert judges. Of the ideas pitched, 10 will be selected as semi-finalists to continue working on their businesses over the course of the weekend. After honing their concepts into viable business models, the ten semi-finalists will pitch again on Sunday night for the chance to win a first place prize of \$10,000, second place prize of \$7,500, and third place prize of \$5,000.

In addition to the cash prizes, first, second and third place prize winners are also granted free office space and business counselling for 90 days at any of the area's business incubators, including the Peninsula Technology Incubator, The Launchpad Greater Williamsburg Incubator, and the Hampton University Business Incubator.

Pitches that are not selected as semi-finalists are encouraged to stick around for the entire weekend to take advantage of the resources available at Start Peninsula. The weekend program includes workshops on business legal entity formation, tax and financial planning and market validation. Mentors and subject matter experts will be on site for one-on-one consultations on issues pertaining to marketing, sales, software and web development, business law, and intellectual property.

Chaired by Hampton Economic Development, this year's planning committee is made up of EDA and business incubator representatives from Newport News, Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Poquoson, as well as the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton University, Tech Center, and community volunteers.

Early bird registration begins August 15th, 2016. Pitch tickets start at \$50; General Admission tickets at \$25. For more information, visit www.startpeninsula.com or follow Start Peninsula on Facebook.

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