

Southern Utah General Technology 'Concept to Company' Contest Hits Halfway

-A total of \$40,000 in cash and services for entrepreneurs is up for grabs in Utah's Dixie-

ST. GEORGE, UT March 29, 2011 – The [Grow Utah Ventures](#), [SEED Dixie](#), and [Zions Bank 'Concept to Company' Innovation Contest](#) has reached the halfway point. Contestants have until April 15, 2011 to submit their ideas for consideration.

This 'Concept to Company' Contest focuses on general technology and is for any new product or service innovation that use any form of technology as their core process. The main objective of the contest is to encourage and support entrepreneurs with the intent of helping them turn their concepts into a company.

"Southern Utah is full of wonderful technology innovations and ideas," [said T. Craig Bott, President and CEO of Grow Utah Ventures](#). "With this contest our hope is to identify the entrepreneurs with the most potential and provide valuable services to them to help them harness and direct their ideas into successful companies. We have had great success with the past two contests in this area and we know this year will be no exception."

The contest is open to any Utah-based entrepreneur or small businesses with a product or service innovation in technology. Although the contest is open to all Utah entrepreneurs, for this specific contest a point preference will be given to businesses and individuals from Southern Utah.

After an initial screening, selected finalists and judges will meet in St. George, Utah on May 13, 2011 for the final presentations. Innovations and ideas will be presented throughout the day where judges will ask questions and select the winners after the final presentation. One grand-prize winner and two runner-up winners will be selected. Winnings for the grand prize will be \$20,000 in cash and services while the runners-up will each receive \$10,000 in cash and services.

"There is more than just money to be gained in this contest," [said Jill Elliss, Director of SEED Dixie and USTAR's Southern Utah Tech Outreach team](#). "All of the finalists will gain valuable insight and advice from our expert panel of judges that can help them build a successful business. Regardless of whether they win or not, we will continue to work with all the finalists to make sure they have the support they need to succeed."

While the \$20,000 cash prize is being offered by an anonymous donor, the service sponsors of the contest include:

- **Durham Jones and Pinegar** – Providing \$5,000 in startup legal services.
- **Savage Esplin and Radmall** – Providing \$5,000 in accounting services.
- **OverActDev Web Development** – Providing \$5,000 in web development services.
- **USTAR** – Providing \$5,000 in consulting & market research services.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.concepttocompany.org. Applicants who apply before April 8 are eligible for assistance and feedback from USTAR and the Small Business Development Centers at Dixie State College, Snow College and Southern Utah University (SUU).

"We want to help our applicants submit their best entries," said Elliss. "If applicants wish to take advantage of this service, we are here to help."

For information on how to contact these people, please visit the Concept to Company website listed above.

About Grow Utah Ventures

Grow Utah Ventures, is a privately funded not-for-profit organization dedicated to stimulate, unlock and develop the entrepreneurial talent and early stage business opportunities for value creation across Utah. Comprised of a team of successful and experienced entrepreneurs, business leaders and private investors, Grow Utah Ventures accomplishes its mission by identifying, selecting and recognizing accomplished and promising Utah entrepreneurs, Building a statewide community of outstanding entrepreneurs and those interested in promoting entrepreneurial development, Partnering with organizations, companies and investors seeking to support Utah's best entrepreneurs, Rallying community leadership and financial resources to support entrepreneurial development. For more information about Grow Utah Ventures, visit www.growutahventures.com.

About SEED Dixie

Through an initiative sponsored by the Washington County Economic Development Council, the SEED Dixie project has established a strategic direction for the Washington county area and surrounding region for fostering entrepreneurial development and the creation of growth and high growth businesses. The overall objective is to strengthen the regional economy by creating a diversified economy.

<http://www.dixiebusinessalliance.com/seed/index.php>

About Zions Bank

Zions Bank is Utah's oldest financial institution, and is the only local bank with statewide distribution of branches, operating 114 full-service branches throughout Utah. Zions Bank also operates 24 full-service branches in Idaho, and nearly 200 ATMs throughout Utah and Idaho. In addition to a wide range of traditional banking services, Zions offers a comprehensive array of investment and mortgage services, and has a network of loan origination offices for small businesses nationwide. The company is also a leader in providing electronic banking services, including electronic municipal bond trading. Founded in 1873, Zions has been serving the communities of Utah for more than 135 years. Additional information is available at www.zionsbank.com.

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