



For Immediate Release  
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## **Rhodes State College Sponsoring a Business Plan Competition for Small Businesses & Students**

LIMA -- The Management/Marketing Program and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Rhodes State College are sponsoring a business plan competition for Rhodes State students and local businesses. The two college areas have joined efforts to create entrepreneurship awareness in the classroom and aim to create an entrepreneurial spirit on campus.

Students have formed teams of four and will compete for a first-place \$600 scholarship and the second-place team wins \$400 for two semesters. The student teams will pitch their products during a live global trading day via the internet. Rhodes State is a global partner of the Institute for Virtual Enterprise. The Institute, based at City University of New York, is built on experiential learning that gives students the opportunity for activity-based learning in simulated global business environments via the Internet. Colleges and universities from 20 countries are actively simulating businesses, and Rhodes State is the only Ohio college/university participating.

In addition, SBDC clients who work with the SBDC staff in completion and execution of a business plan can compete for up to \$2000 for equipment or tangible assets with a maximum grant fund of \$3000 to be awarded. The grant will require a dollar for dollar match from the applicant or other investors. The applicant must be an active pre-venture, start-up or an existing business completing a business plan through the SBDC to qualify.

To be considered, written business plans must be submitted by April 18 to SBDC, Rhodes State College, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, OH 45804. Those interested may call Kathy Keller at (419) 995-8184 for details.

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