



# 2015-2016 Entrepreneurship Competitions and Conferences in Nebraska

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## NVA

### NEW VENTURE ADVENTURE

October 15, 2015 • 8:30am-3:00pm • UNK Nebraskan Student Union; Kearney, NE

New Venture Adventure, sponsored by UNK Enactus (formerly SIFE) immerses high school students in becoming an entrepreneur for a day. Students gain a sense of what it takes to create a new business venture in today's competitive environment by creating and "operating" their own manufacturing, service or retail business venture business for a day. This event is designed to offer an enriching experience that enhances all participants' critical entrepreneurship skills and helps them gain a sense of what it really takes to create a new business venture in today's competitive environment. The schedule for mastering designated activities is tight and demanding to help better simulate the challenges faced by real-life entrepreneurs. Awards are given to the student teams that most successfully master the challenging activities. Registration deadline is September 16, 2015.

Contacts: Shawn Kaskie-UNK Enactus Team Advisor; 308.865.8135 or Kelsey Martinsen-UNK Enactus Member; crrd@unk.edu; Center for Rural Research and Development; www.unk.edu/academics/crrd/



### BIG IDEA HASTINGS

October 15, 2015 • Time TBA • The Lark - Hastings, Nebraska

Big Idea Hastings is a new community event that will be held in downtown Hastings at the Lark. The purpose is to promote small business support in central Nebraska. Big Idea Hastings will be the combined effort of several stakeholder organizations in the community and coordinated by Open for Business. Contestants will register online and deliver a business pitch live on the evening of October 15. Prizes will be awarded to the winning contestants including resources and money. The entrepreneurs in this event will also be eligible to participate in UNK's Central Nebraska Business Idea Contest.

Contact: Open for Business; 855-538-OPEN (6736); www.bigideahastings.com



### 5TH ANNUAL CENTRAL NEBRASKA BUSINESS IDEA CONTEST

November 18, 2015 • 7:00 pm • University of Nebraska - Kearney; Kearney, NE

This event is open to anyone, at any age, with a new business idea. A 2-minute video of your idea "pitch" must be submitted by Monday, October 26, 2015 by midnight. All videos submitted by the deadline will be evaluated by local entrepreneurs and the top 10 ideas will be asked to participate in downtown Kearney on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. It's easy, it's free and it's a great learning experience. All ages are welcome! A couple "sharks" will run a short Q & A session and the audience will select the "best" and will award a \$1,000 1st prize, \$500 2nd prize and \$250 3rd prize.

Contact: Center for Rural Research and Development; 308.865.8199; www.unk.edu/academics/crrd



### 7TH ANNUAL 3-2-1 QUICK PITCH COMPETITION

November 19, 2015 • 5:30-9:00 pm • Memorial Stadium Club Level Skybox Suites; Lincoln, NE

The 3-2-1 Quick Pitch Competition gives all Nebraska high school, 2 year college, and 4 year college students an opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial, communication, and presentation skills through a short "quick pitch" proposal for a new business venture. Students will apply and then be invited to present their pitches, be evaluated, and receive feedback on the effectiveness of their pitch from a panel of entrepreneurially-minded experts from across Nebraska. Six cash prizes of \$1,000 will be awarded. The competition begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, November 19th and is free and open to the public.

Contact: Center for Entrepreneurship; 402.472.3353; entrepreneurship@unl.edu; http://cba.unl.edu/about/centers/entrepreneurship/events/quick-pitch



## 6TH ANNUAL BIG IDEA! PITCH CONTEST

Fall, 2015, TBA

Students show off their innovative and creative ideas for new concepts to create or improve a product or deliver a service. Using the 90 second pitch format, students compete in one of four categories and then are selected to compete in the live finale in Mammel Hall. Over \$2,000 in prizes will be awarded. Open to students at the UNO campus and the public is welcome to attend.

[www.bigidea.unomaha.edu](http://www.bigidea.unomaha.edu)



## 6TH ANNUAL MAVERICK BUSINESS PLAN CONTEST

April 2016, TBA

UNO students present their business concepts to compete for \$6,000 in prizes. Prior to competing, students will participate in a series of training and mentoring sessions from faculty and local entrepreneurs to increase the viability and impact of their business idea. The public is welcome to attend.

[www.mavbusplan.unomaha.edu](http://www.mavbusplan.unomaha.edu)



## entrepreneuringdays@unl

April 5-7, 2016 • UNL City Union & Nebraska Innovation Campus; Lincoln, NE

### Tuesday April 5, 2015 - UNL New Venture Competition

Students from across the University of Nebraska system gather to present their business ideas to panels of expert judges for a grand prize of up to \$50,000. Teams gain valuable feedback, new connections, and in some cases, investment opportunities. High school students and teachers are invited to attend the business idea presentations as audience members.

### Wednesday April 6, 2015 - UNL Celebration of Entrepreneurial Learning

This event features workshops and discussions lead by traditional and non-traditional entrepreneurs and an evening of awards recognizing exceptional entrepreneurs from diverse fields. Workshops and seminars are open to the public.

### Thursday, April 7, 2015 - UNL Global New Venture Competition

This event welcomes 24 teams of graduate and undergraduate students from the world's top universities to present their ideas, receive expert appraisal, and compete for more than \$25,000 in cash prizes. High school students and teachers are invited to attend the business idea presentations as audience members.

Contact: The Center for Entrepreneurship; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, CBA 217; Rose Graves; 402.613.1657; [rgraves1@unl.edu](mailto:rgraves1@unl.edu)

<http://cba.unl.edu/about/centers/entrepreneurship/events/entrepreneuring-days>



## HEARTLAND STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR CONFERENCE

April 29, 2016 • Swanson Conf Ctr, Bldg #22, Metro Community College; Omaha, NE

The Heartland Conference targets middle school, high school and college students in the Omaha metro area specifically studying entrepreneurship/innovation. The one-day conference is an energizing mix of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, networking breaks, exhibits and two contests. The Big Idea Essay Contest and the Elevator Pitch Contest both have awesome prizes associated with them. You and your students will definitely want to attend this high energy conference. Early registration is encouraged because registration numbers are limited to the capacity of the host facility.

Contact: Heather M. Nelson, Metro Community College; 402.289.1376 or 800.228.9553; [hnelson@mccneb.edu](mailto:hnelson@mccneb.edu);

[www.mccneb.edu/entr](http://www.mccneb.edu/entr)



## 5TH ANNUAL MIDWEST ENTREPRENEUR CONFERENCE

April, 2016 • University of Nebraska-Omaha; Omaha, NE

Join over 400 students from around the Midwest to learn from young, highly successful entrepreneurs who share their stories of startup success, failure and lessons learned along the way. Over two days, students from over 20 colleges and universities will have the chance to listen to, meet and be mentored by under-30 entrepreneurs who have already made an impact with their organization. Last year's speakers included entrepreneurs who were featured on Shark Tank, Oprah, and 60 Minutes. Participating schools who send five or more students receive significant discounts.

[www.mwecomaha.com](http://www.mwecomaha.com)