

**ONABEN is looking for some
competitors!.....
announcing..**

Innovations in Indianpreneurship®

A Business Plan Competition and a Native Showcase for Business Development.

"Building Innovative and Sustainable Enterprises in Rural America"

In order to achieve the potential for transformation that an innovation economy holds, we can't sit back and wait for it to happen. The renaissance in Tribal economic development in many areas illustrates what can be done, even in distressed rural areas. The rise in Native entrepreneurship shows equally great promise for the emergence of a vital Native private sector. ONABEN has been an innovator in creating new products and services to educate, counsel, coach, and inspire entrepreneurship in Indian Country. For many years we have sought a creative and culturally appropriate way to generate more capital-financial and social capital-in support of entrepreneurship. We believe we have found a way to accomplish these goals.

Innovations in Indianpreneurship® is a business development process, a competition, and a showcase for Native innovation. Inspired by the World Bank's Development Marketplace model and the Alaska Federation of Natives Alaska Marketplace, Innovations in Indianpreneurship® seeks to bring Native peoples, ideas, and capital together to create and grow new enterprises in rural Northwest Indian Country.

Through **Innovations in Indianpreneurship®**, ONABEN will bring new business ideas, entrepreneurs, their mentors and investors together. The business plan competition will test the abilities of entrepreneurs to refine and present their ideas. The showcase and awards ceremonies will bring the communities of entrepreneurs together with their mentors, investors, and the community to celebrate and support the entrepreneurs. The concept is to grow capacity and attract new capital for economic development.

Competition Registration Begins March 22nd!

The theme for this year is
**"Building Innovative and Sustainable Enterprises
in Rural America"**

**Are you a rural business owner in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho?
Do you have an innovative project,
business expansion, or new business idea?
Innovations can provide a lot of help and a little "seed" money.**

Competition begins with a Registration and the Executive Summary Round. It is in the form of Business Information, Executive Summary and Business Concept **ONLINE submission**. The submission deadline is **April 16th, 2010**. Find the online registration form [here](#)

Check out the rules and eligibility requirements, and other important information on ONABEN's [website](#).

GOOD LUCK!!!

Innovations in Indianpreneurship is a collaboration between ONABEN and the following:

- Shorebank Enterprise Cascadia
- Business and Economic Development Center
UW Foster School of Business
- Ecotrust
- Affiliated Tribes Economic Development Corporation-Financial Services Corporation

Don't want to compete but still want to be involved?

Innovations in Indianpreneurship needs your skills, business savvy, professional experience, and most of all, your enthusiasm for encouraging Indianpreneurs to try their hand at developing or expanding their businesses.

We are recruiting for three different groups of volunteers:

Phase 1: Assessors

Phase 2: Mentors

Phase 3: Judges

Check the [website](#) for more information. To register send a brief email with interest, name, and experience to innovations@onaben.org

Executive Summary Round Finalists will be

announced at
ONABEN's annual conference.

May 3-6th, 2010
Tulalip Resort and Casino
Tulalip, Washington

ONABEN

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