

Contact: Robert Busweiler - Director of Public Information and Policy
Office: 516-571-0896 / Cell: 516-329-5167
Email - rbusweiler@nassaucountyny.gov
For Immediate Release -March 29, 2019



Office of the Nassau County Comptroller

Jack Schnirman – Comptroller

240 Old Country Road

Mineola, New York 11501

Tel: (516) 571-2386 • Fax: (516) 571-5900

Office of the Nassau County Comptroller Announces Winners of Seventh Annual High School Entrepreneurial Challenge

Event Gives High School Students Opportunity to Develop and Present Business Ideas
to 'Shark Tank Style' Panel of Judges

OLD WESTBURY, N Y - The Office of the Nassau County Comptroller hosted its seventh annual Comptroller's Entrepreneurial Challenge (Challenge) on March 29 at SUNY Old Westbury.

The Challenge featured more than a dozen student-led teams from public schools across Nassau County creating a fictional organization's comprehensive business plan and elevator pitch in a 'Shark Tank Style' format. The student teams were instructed to tailor their pitches to the theme of Civic Innovation within one of two categories: Technology and Social Entrepreneurship. The program was geared to inspire students to not only create a successful business plan, but also give back and make a positive impact in their communities.

"The Challenge is designed to give students with different backgrounds and passions an opportunity to get involved and pitch their ideas to create businesses that will do good for our communities while doing well in front of local business and nonprofit leaders," Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman said. "Any young person can make a difference in their community and be a citizen superhero through civic innovation or social entrepreneurship, and the Challenge is a great platform to showcase the next generation of leaders in Nassau County."

A total of 18 teams from 12 schools each comprised of five students took part in the competition. Each student was tasked with filling different executive roles of a start-up technology company or community-oriented nonprofit. Throughout the school year, the teams developed an organizational plan and ultimately presented it to a panel of judges during the challenge event.

“We’re excited to host this innovative business competition, bringing more than one hundred high school students and future business leaders on campus to pitch their creative ideas,” Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean of the School of Business at SUNY Old Westbury said. “Bringing this competition focused on entrepreneurship to our campus is a natural fit to enhance the experience for students.”

The ‘Shark Tank Style’ judging panel was comprised of community business and civic leaders, and the event was sponsored by Bethpage Federal Credit Union and SUNY Old Westbury.

The judges for the event included:

Robert Suarez, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; Shalei Simms, SUNY Old Westbury; Marissa Hoffmann, SUNY Old Westbury; Jillian Weston, Jillian’s Circus; Brian Berkery, Creative Vibe Advertising; Shari James, James Consulting Group LLC; Retha Fernandez, Urban League LI; Jacob Dixon, Choice for All; Stacey Sikes, Hofstra University; Rebecca Sanin, Health & Welfare Council; Dexter Hedgepath, Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs; Dr. Carolyn McCummings, Nassau County Department of Human Services.

“Congratulations to all teams involved on developing some tremendous plans for businesses and nonprofits here in Nassau County,” Schnirman said. “I was blown away by the unique ideas tailor-made to thrive in our communities, and I’m honored to recognize this year’s winners.”

Technology Category

High School/Team Name

1st place: New Hyde Park Memorial Nubis

2nd place: East Meadow High School Drop Cycle

3rd place: Floral Park Memorial Team Beta

Honorable Mentions:

Carle Place High School GreenScore

New Hyde Park Memorial Biobox

JFK High School SkySource

Social Entrepreneurship Category

High School/Team Name

1st place: East Meadow High School CollegePro

2nd place: Syosset High School Tota Vita

3rd place: MacArthur High School Planet Earth Hydro

Honorable Mentions :

North Shore High School Advise

Massapequa High School Let Us Eat

Baldwin High School Life Coach Watch

**Comptrollers Challenge Champion: East Meadow High School
CollegePro**

*Photos from the event available upon request