

JusticeXL 2015 Fall Cohort

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Tullahoma, TN – for immediate release

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SMTEC Announces JusticeXL 2015 Fall Cohort

Dan Marcum, Executive Director of Southern Middle Tennessee Entrepreneur Centers (SMTEC) today announced the finalists in the competition to be accepted into SMTEC's 2015 Fall Cohort.

"We set out to limit the number of participants to be within a range of 8 to 12 startups. The response was higher than expected and the quality of applicants has been outstanding," said Marcum. "The cohort selection committee did a great job. I expect this group to be the most successful yet."

Of the twelve companies, six of them are located in Tennessee, two from neighboring states Kentucky and Georgia, three from more distant states Arizona, California, and New York, and one is from Tel Aviv, Israel.

"All of the entrepreneurs are open to the idea of relocating to Tennessee," said Jerry Wright, Program Manager of the JusticeXL program. "That was an important factor in the committee's selection criteria."

JusticeXL is a 14-week intense business accelerator designed to help entrepreneurs transform an idea into a successful and investible company. The program starts September 8 but participants are already working on pre-cohort activities. "We will hit the ground running when we all get together on day one," said Karen Tackett, Program Administrator. "There is nothing remedial about this fast-paced program."

The JusticeXL program will be held in Tullahoma at SMTEC's headquarters and experiential learning center on Wilson Avenue.

According to Wright, a former Navy Chief, Chief of Police, and serial entrepreneur, "JusticeXL is the only accelerator in the nation focused collectively on law enforcement, public safety, and corrections. New emerging technologies combined with a strong nation-wide interest in law enforcement, public safety, and corrections make this business sector vibrant for new startups. And Middle Tennessee is an ideal location for this economic development," Wright added.

"JusticeXL is entrepreneur-focused and mentor-driven," Marcum explained. "Seasoned executives are a key in bringing proven skills, experience, and connectivity to the cohort entrepreneurs. This high-level mentoring can save entrepreneurs a lot of time and money, and enable important industry introductions."

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SMTEC is one of Tennessee's rural accelerators. It is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and focused on startup companies now located in or willing to relocate to rural Tennessee. It primarily serves a 13-county region including Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshal, Maury, Moore, Perry, and Wayne counties.