



That's a wrap!

This past weekend, The Biz Foundry hosted a grand finale pitch competition event that marked the end of My Big Idea Youth Innovation and Idea Generation Program for Jackson, Macon, Van Buren, Warren and White Counties. The program includes 4 weekly, after school sessions for select high school students in each county. The hands-on program takes the students through business idea generation, idea evaluation, business model development, and ultimately at the 24 Hour Grand Finale event, through preparing presentations and pitching to a panel of business-veteran judges.

The grand finale event consisted of an overnight 24 hour event ending with a "Shark-Tank like" pitch contest where the winning teams were awarded cash prizes. Almost 50 kids participated in the after school program from 6 different high schools and five different counties. Twelve teams with a total 32 kids participated in the pitch contest. The competition was facilitated by The Biz Foundry, and hosted by Tennessee Tech University at their Memorial Gym March 10th - 11th.

Top 6 Teams:

- **1st Place: Shake Charge "Emergency Phone Charge"**
Team: Alpha Squad | Team Members: Troy Mineer & Wesley Punzalan | Jackson County | \$500 cash prize
- **2nd Place: Cupid Cup "Self Heating Portable Mug"**
Team: Einsteinians | Team Members: Alex Norris, Caleb Greer, Elizabeth Newberry, Jacob Carr and Bryce Templin | Jackson County | \$400 cash prize

- **3rd Place: S.U.B.S. "App that Tracks Students on a School Bus"**
Team Members: Heidi Whitaker, Tanner Bryant & Zack Smith | White County | \$300 cash prize
- **4th Place: Unique Boutique "Consignment Shop for Prom Dresses"**
Team Members: Katelynn Farless & Mahaley Smith | Van Buren | \$200 cash prize
- **5th Place: Hello World "Coffee Shop with Tutors"**
Team Member: Valerie Hubert | Warren County | \$100 cash prize
- **6th Place: Scrapyard "Reviving Old Clothes with Custom Tailoring"**
Team Members: Mariana Vallejo Torres & Gerardo Cereceres Vasquez | Warren County

Judges:

- Alane Boyd - Vice President, *GoFanbase*
- Charlie Jordan - Co-Founder, *SafeSurv*
- Barbara Fleming - Retired MD

Sponsors for this event included LaunchTN, Upper Cumberland Development District and Tennessee Tech University. My Big Idea for Fentress, Cumberland, Morgan, Putnam and Clay County will begin later this month and the 24 hour grand finale event will be in late April. Stay tuned for more details!

Many thanks to the schools, teachers, 4H leaders, Chambers of Commerce, and other volunteers that helped make this event possible!

Interested in getting involved in our youth entrepreneurship and innovation programs?

Contact Mike Ames at mike@thebizfoundry.org

For more info about My Big Idea, [visit our website!](#)





