

Carnegie-Mellon University /

Tepper Business School /

McGinnis Venture Competition

For the second year, the Donald H. Jones Center for Entrepreneurship at the Tepper School at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh PA has added a special Sustainability Award to their prestigious [McGinnis Venture Competition](#) scheduled to be held March 13-15, 2008.

Since 1972, Carnegie Mellon has linked education and entrepreneurship, teaching the unique skills necessary to bring new products and services to market. In more recent years, the institution, through its Donald H. Jones Center for Entrepreneurship, has focused on the commercialization of technology and biotechnology. As a founding member of Moot Corp®, Carnegie Mellon has a tradition of supporting national competitions for enterprising MBA students.

The McGinnis is one of the leading business plan competitions in the world, and is the only venture competition for MBA students that focuses on bringing new technologies to market through entrepreneurship. This competition attracts top MBA students from around the world. Participants in the competition will have the opportunity to win cash prizes, pitch directly to venture capitalists, and receive valuable intellectual property services.

The Foundation for a Sustainable Future envisions using business and profits as the mechanisms by which to rapidly spread scalable and replicable Sustainable Technology projects. For the purposes of our competition, "sustainable" is defined as products or services using new or innovative technologies or processes to enhance the usability or effectiveness of natural resources, lead to lower costs and waste, or reduce adverse environmental impacts of the entire product life cycle, which would otherwise constrain future generations.

Travel Grants

To help offset the cost of traveling to Pittsburgh, sustainable-future.org is sponsoring [Travel Grants](#) to help outstanding contestants from North America, Europe, Australia, South America, Asia and Africa travel to Pittsburgh to present their business plans that bring the world closer towards sustainability.

Foundation for a Sustainable Future Travel Grant [Application](#):

In order to be eligible to compete for a Travel Grant Award of \$ 250 to \$ 750:

- You must [register](#) and meet the [criteria](#) and [requirements](#) for the McGinnis Venture Competition and be accepted by DJC/Tepper/CMU as a participant.
- Submit your McGinnis Summary and Business Plan (pdf / WORD) to the Travel Grant Judging Committee at mcginnis@sustainable-future.org by February 16, 2008 in electronic format
- Submit to the Travel Grant Judging Committee at mcginnis@sustainable-future.org your synopsis (maximum 3-5 pages pdf / WORD/EXCEL, including tables) of the sustainability benefits resulting from your project, such as climate change mitigation, energy efficiency, beneficial materials (toxicity, efficiency, renewables etc), clean-tech, water security, to name just a few. Discuss the metrics by which these benefits are quantified.
- If not already in the United States, verify that you have received a visa for travel to the United States to participate. A copy of your visa is sufficient verification.

The Committee will acknowledge receipt of your submission. Your last minute changes may be incorporated into the final version of the Summary and Business Plan submitted to Tepper. We will evaluate the Business Plans as submitted to us. We will inform grant winners by March 1, 2008.

Business plans that demonstrate the best combination of profitability and sustainability benefits, and which are scalable and replicable, such that they can have a global impact, will be favored for the Travel Grants.

For questions, contact
info@sustainable-future.org

More about the McGinnis

This competition revolves around new technologies. The driving force is pragmatism: helping MBA students move from the dorm room to the board room, bringing new businesses to life. Emerging industries such as information technology, biotechnology, robotics, nanotechnology, telecommunications and others provide unique, high-return opportunities for young entrepreneurs and investors.

The McGinnis Venture Competition for Graduate Students features three tracks:
Technology
Life Sciences
Sustainable Technology

Winners of each track receive:

Cash awards / investment in the startup

Opportunity to pitch directly to a top-tier venture capitalists
Valuable intellectual property services
The top two teams also get an automatic berth to Moot Corp®

All McGinnis Venture Competition participants receive:

Interaction with venture capitalists and entrepreneurs
Opportunity to raise capital
Reality check for business plan
Invitation to attend social events in the best venues of Pittsburgh

Entrepreneurship. A Capital Idea.

An important objective of any plan for a new business is to raise capital. MBA students with entrepreneurial aspirations and a compelling business plan will find a receptive audience at the McGinnis Venture Competition. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with our judges, who are venture capitalists, successful entrepreneurs and leading entrepreneurial educators. The competition will serve as an early reality check, pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of every plan.

In each track, the winning team's startup company will receive a first prize of \$20,000 as an investment in the firm. The winner of each track will have in-kind prizes for intellectual property and other legal services. Also, the Donald H. Jones faculty will provide advisory services for first-place winners. There will be additional prizes for runners-up and winners of individual events.

While the competition is serious business, there will be plenty of time for relaxation and entertainment. As guests of Carnegie Mellon, team members will enjoy a full schedule of social activities at elite venues throughout the city of Pittsburgh.