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More Than 30 Applications Submitted for New Entrepreneur Program

BATON ROUGE – More than 30 applications have been submitted for Tech Park U which assists budding entrepreneurs in writing a business plan and offers office space (including phones, Internet access and business coaching) to implement the plan. Tech Park U will also have a \$2,000 business plan competition at the end of the nine-month program with the winner getting \$2,000. Tech Park U costs just \$99 a month.

Unlike members of the Tech Park's incubator, members of Tech Park U are required only to have an idea for a technology business, not an existing business with a full fledged business plan and revenue as is required for incubator members.

Tech Park U will accept up to 10 entrepreneurs to its intensive nine-month program.

“We really didn't know how many applications we would receive, but the response has just been tremendous. I think this shows that there are a lot entrepreneurs in our region,” said Louisiana Technology Park President Eddie Ashworth

The program is divided into three parts. Phase one, lasting 10 weeks, will focus on the importance of business plans using the FastTrac Tech Venture Curriculum, designed by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, to accelerate entrepreneurship through practical, hands-on business development training. In addition, regional business people, local speakers and the nationally acclaimed J.J. Hill Reference Resource Library will be available for support. The class will meet every Wednesday night for three hours.

In phase two Tech Park U members will be given the opportunity to continue to refine their business plan and actually implement it, taking advantage of the office and clerical support available in the Tech Park.

Finally, all of the TPU participants will compete in a \$2,000 business plan competition in September, 2007.

Winning applicants will be notified by Wednesday, November 29.

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