

MEDIA RELEASE

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Project Innovation Awards \$26,000 to Local Innovators *Award Winners announced at the Final Competition on June 9th*

Project Innovation is proud to announce the five award winners announced at the Final Competition on June 9, 2010. The recipient of the first place prize of \$15,000 was Jardogs, LLC for their innovation of a Patient Kiosk. The Patient Kiosk is a biometric authentication device that is more accurate and faster than a fingerprint. The Patient Kiosk allows the patient to check into a healthcare organization and update their records much more quickly than the traditional methods available.

Jardogs is honored to have been invited to participate in Project Innovation, and we are thrilled to have won first place, said Ron Ward, Chief Architect at Jardogs. The Project Innovation competition is a perfect fit for Jardogs in that we are based in Sangamon County and are striving to succeed in marketing our solutions to the health care industry.

Additional award winners included \$8,000 for second place to Dr. Om Jha from Springfield, Illinois for STUC-OM, a pediatric catheter that can be utilized many times longer than traditional pediatric catheters. The STUC-OM decreases invasiveness and infections in patients. Third place award winners with a prize of \$1,000 each include W. Allan Shears from Divernon, Illinois for the Electrically Powered Pill Crusher, Dr. Schneider and Dr. Hwang from Springfield, Illinois for Wikiphen and Jack Milbourn from Springfield, Illinois for Tru-Balance.

We launched Project Innovations as a unique avenue to benefit our medical community, and at the same time, generate job growth and increase the overall prosperity and health of our community, stated Mikal Sutton-Vereen, Director of Medical Development at The Chamber. The five award winners each presented innovative ideas that can benefit the medical community and have a positive economic impact on our community.

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ENCOURAGING AND REWARDING INNOVATIVE THINKERS IN SANGAMON COUNTY

The top award winner, Jardogs, LLC plans to continue to expand in Sangamon County. We will continue to pull talent from and attract new talent to the Sangamon County job market as we succeed, all of which positively contributes to the local economy, said Ward. We plan to reinvest the prize money in the company in order to support and further enhance our self-service patient kiosk as well as additional solutions that we are developing.

At the Final Competition held on June 9 at the LLCC Capital City Training Center, the five finalists presented their innovative ideas for improving healthcare. A panel of judges including Bruce Sommer, Bluestem Ventures; Jason Wrone, Open Prairie Ventures; Amit Sudharshan, Illinois Ventures; and Tom Gihl, Q5 Advisory Board and Illinois National Bank established the winners based on the submitted applications and presentations.

Project Innovation is a Sangamon County medical contest that provides funding to entrepreneurs and pioneering companies for medical-related innovation. As part of the overall Q5 goals to increase opportunities for business and economic growth in our communities, Q5 formed Project Innovation to encourage creative thinking by providing financial and business resources to advance medical care and treatment.

Several leading organizations in the community supported Project Innovation, including, Mid-Illinois Medical District, Quantum Growth Partnership (Q5), The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and Bluestem Ventures.

For more information, visit www.SangamonProjectInnovation.com.

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Note to Media: For photographs or contact information for the award winners, please contact Sarah Wolin at 217.622.6539 or swolin@gsc.org.

