

FIU Confab to Highlight Latin American Entrepreneurship - 10/08/10

MIAMI, FL - As Latin American economies show renewed promise, the inaugural Americas Venture Capital Conference will feature presentations by fifteen innovative ventures doing business in the region.

The conference, presented by Florida International University (FIU)'s Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center, will take place on November 17-18, 2010 at FIU's College of Business Complex in Miami. The theme of the inaugural conference is "Latin America: The New Mainstream."

"Recent events have made it clear: as many world economies retrench, Latin America is on the rise," said Irma Becerra-Fernandez, conference chair of the 2010 Americas Venture Capital Conference and director of FIU's Pino Center. "Our presenting companies represent exciting opportunities for those looking to partner with, or invest in, ventures doing business in Latin America."

In addition to several biomedical and logistics ventures, presenting companies include a consumer firm specializing in Hispanic culture and education, and an innovative, customized approach to English as a Second Language instruction. Three of the chosen ventures will receive special awards geared toward further business development, each worth \$10,000.

Selected companies have a minimum of \$2 million (USD) in revenues, solid track records with management teams in place, and a focus in one of seven industries: agriculture and water quality; biotechnology; pharmaceutical and health; consumer products; energy and green technologies; entertainment; and information, communication and web technologies.

Each of the fifteen selected companies will receive private coaching by leading venture capitalists and successful entrepreneurs on how to successfully pitch their ventures.

Presenting companies are:

- Aeropost International Services, Inc – USA
- Baby Abuelita Productions, LLC – USA
- CDI Ingeniería – Colombia
- CHS Pharma – USA
- DBAccess – Venezuela
- EBPartners, LLC – Mexico
- My Friend, S.A. – Chile
- Sumo Technologies (Papatel, LLC) – USA
- Mind Lab do Brasil – Brazil
- Open English – Venezuela
- Solutions Group S.A. – Colombia

- Teravision Group Corp. – Venezuela
- Trans -Express – USA
- Vida Mobile, LLC (M2 Applied Solutions) – USA YellowPepper Holding (YellowPepper Mobile Financial Solutions) – USA

Registration for the two-day conference is USD \$395.00 per attendee before October 8, 2010, and USD \$495.00 after October 8, 2010. Special rates are available for FIU alumni. The conference fee includes admission, meals, networking breaks, and a closing reception.

Americas Venture Capital Conference is organized by the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center at Florida International University. For more information on the conference, please call 305-348-7156 or visit www.AmericasVCCconference.com.

About The Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center: The Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center facilitates the entrepreneurial activities at Florida International University. The Center is supported by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the College of Business Administration at FIU. The Pino Center, directed by Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez, has been designated a Kauffman Campus by the Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City. For more information about the Pino Center, please visit www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu or call 305-348-7156.

About FIU: Florida International University is one of the 25 largest universities in the nation, with over 40,000 students. Nearly 130,000 FIU alumni live and work in South Florida. Its colleges and schools offer more than 200 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, international relations and law. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU is worlds ahead in its local and global engagement, finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. The opening of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in August 2009 has enhanced the university's ability to create lasting positive change in our community. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>.