

Business Plan Challenge draws 200+ entries

By Nancy Dahlberg
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The Miami Herald's Business Plan Challenge drew more than 200 entries from South Florida entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs in three tracks, including 90 entries from high school students. Entries were due Friday.

The annual business plan competition, now in its 13th year, moves into the judging phase.

Panels of judges — all experts in entrepreneurship — will evaluate the entries, and finalists in the community, FIU and high school tracks will be named April 18, both in Business Monday and on MiamiHerald.com/Challenge.

Semifinalists will be named May 2, which is also when the People's Pick portion of the contest launches. Semifinalists' elevator pitches will be filmed in Miami Herald and FIU studios, and readers will vote on their favorites. Last year's contest drew more than 15,000 votes.

The winners in all three tracks will be unveiled May 16 in a special section of Business Monday. An overall Challenge Champion will also be named.

If you entered the Challenge and did not get a short message from Nancy Dahlberg acknowledging your entry, or you would just like to check that your entry was received, email ndahlberg@MiamiHerald.com