



October 5, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contacts:

**Jim Heckmann**

Iowa Small Business Development Center  
(515) 294-2030  
jimh@iastate.edu

**Deb Duncan**

Iowa Small Business Development Center  
(515) 294-0021  
dduncan@iastate.edu

**Three of the four finalists in the John Pappajohn Iowa Business Plan Competition are clients of the Iowa Small Business Development Centers**

AMES, Iowa—Three of the four finalists selected in the 2009 John Pappajohn Iowa Business Plan Competition are clients of the Iowa State University Small Business Development Center and the ISU Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship. The finalists were chosen out of 30 semi-finalists, representing 17 different communities in Iowa.

“The selection of these three companies emphasizes the breadth and scope of the services provided by the Iowa Small Business Development Centers. Our work with Iowa small businesses includes the promotion of successful technology commercialization by helping adapt cutting edge research to the market, thereby improving the lives of Iowans. We congratulate Mike Upah, our Director at our Ames center, for the insight and assistance he provided these companies,” says State Director Jim Heckmann.

Finalists will present to judges at the Iowa Venture Capital and Entrepreneurs Conference on October 6-7 in Des Moines. Three businesses will be awarded cash prizes totaling \$50,000 at the conference. Additional smaller cash prizes will also be awarded.

The Iowa Small Business Development Center program is an outreach program of Iowa State University's College of Business. Partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the organization has 15 regional business assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the organization has provided expert, confidential business counseling and affordable, practical training workshops to hundreds of thousands of Iowa businesses and entrepreneurs.

For more information on Iowa Small Business Development Center programs or services, call (515) 294-2030 or visit [www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org). For more information on the competition, visit [www.iowabusinessplancompetition.com](http://www.iowabusinessplancompetition.com).