

2015 Innovation Hot Spot Pitch Prep Series

43North announced 110 semifinalists on July 29, 2015, with 30 hailing from the WNY economic development region. IHS worked with 43North and several incubator partners to offer a series to help these companies prepare for their next round in the competition.



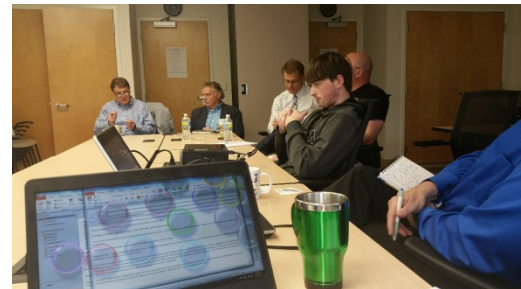
Investor's Perspective with Rami Katz: 8/6/2015

IHS held a congratulatory reception at the UB CTRC to formally recognize semifinalists and outline programs available to them as locally-based semifinalists. Rami Katz, COO of Excell Partners, was the event's keynote speaker, and shared the characteristics he seeks in entrepreneurs and ventures when making investment decisions.

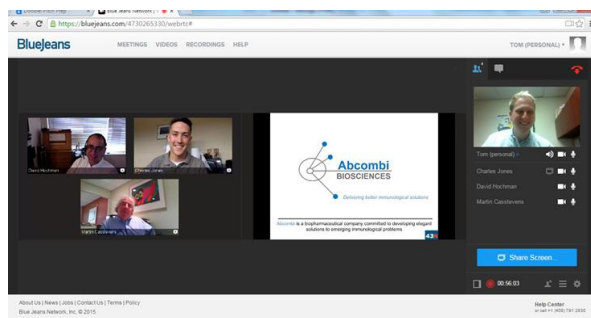
26/30 local semifinalists attended.

In-person Pitch Practice: 8/10/2015 – 8/13/2015

IHS organized four days of sessions featuring local business executives reacting to live pitches. Semifinalists were given 10 minutes to present before receiving 20 minutes of constructive feedback. 11 local executives volunteered to participate in this round of mentoring.



20/30 local semifinalists participated.



Online Pitch Practice: 8/14/2015 – 8/21/2015

IHS held online sessions using the same software and time parameters to be seen in the 43North semifinals round. Semifinalists were given 10 minutes to present before receiving 50 minutes of feedback from VCs/angels Craig Asher, David Hochman, and Brian Scott.

15/30 local semifinalists participated.