



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City Startup Labs 2015 version of “Shark Tank” on May 27th

CHARLOTTE, NC (April 28, 2015) - City Startup Labs (CSL) is wrapping up a 15-week bootcamp with presentations by student entrepreneurs during a business plan pitch competition.

The Entrepreneurs’ Academy conducted in collaboration with the [Urban League of Central Carolinas](#), targets black male millennials (18-34 yrs.) with accelerated entrepreneurial instruction and support. City Startup Labs’ mission is to stimulate entrepreneurial activity and innovation within inner-city America, and this is the second year of its pilot initiative.

Partnering with [Ventureprise](#), City Startup Labs’ student entrepreneurs met at UNCC’s PORTAL building in January with a self-discovery intensive, facilitated by New York-based nonprofit, [Unlocking Futures](#). Student entrepreneurs then sequenced through curricula which has included lessons for understanding, planning and starting a successful new venture. They also attended pop-up lectures on topics about public speaking, sales, writing, and innovation.

The upcoming pitch event provides the student/entrepreneurs an opportunity to present their ventures and compete for 5 business incubation slots at our partner, [Packard Place](#). The event is being moderated by Janine Davis, of V101.9 and the [Girl Talk Foundation](#). Cash prizes will also be awarded courtesy of our sponsor, [Wells Fargo Bank](#). All participants will have an opportunity to apply for micro-loan through a pilot with [ACCION USA](#). Also, each presenting venture will have access to LivePlan by Palo Alto Software, as well as business counseling through a partnership with [SCORE](#) and the [SBA](#). (CSL was one out of 50 organizations around the country, which were awarded a grant from the SBA for its 1st Innovation Fund).

City Startup Labs is also working with the city’s social-enterprise accelerator, [Queen City Forward](#) and is a member of the Charlotte Entrepreneurial Alliance.

Henry Rock, CSL’s Executive Director notes, “The determination, drive, and ingenuity that these young men have shown throughout this program, is positive proof that they have the right stuff to be a new breed of entrepreneurs. They’ve embraced and risen to the challenge. I’m proud of them all, and also of the fact that they will take away tools that will serve them well in business and in life.”

When: May 27 Time: 6:30 - 9PM

Where: UNCC Center City 320 E 9th St [location made possible through a partnership with the [Collegiate 100](#)]

CONTACT: Henry Rock | City Startup Labs

henry.rock@citystartuplabs.com • www.citystartuplabs.org • 704.412.1322

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