Attached photo cutline: First-place ROBOT WARS  L-R: Karren Lovelady, Blake Hosli, Noah Bergeron and Daniel Scoggin (not pictured Heath Hemphill).

RUSTON, La. -- A total of $16,500 in cash and prizes was awarded to the first, second and third-place teams this past Saturday during the final round of the TOP DAWG Business Plan Competition at Louisiana Tech University.


Second place ($2,500) was awarded to Cellar Door Theater’s James Lanius (St. Francisville, La. - Theater, 2008) and Adam Tidwell (Monroe, La. – Business Administration, 2008), a theater-based community center.
The SuperCap Power Management team of Joseph Cannon (Martin, La. – PhD student in Engineering, 2008) and Steven Bearden (Vivian, La. – PhD student in Engineering, 2010) won third place and $1,500 for an energy storage technology.

In addition to the cash awards, the Louisiana Tech Enterprise Center sponsors incubator space valued at $4,500 for six months to the first, second, and third-place teams.

Jones Walker recognized the team that is the most entrepreneurial through sponsorship of the $2,000 Jones Walker Entrepreneurial Spirit Award. This award went to Uniform Rack (Michelli McKnight [Ruston, La. – Political Science, 2009] and Sallie Martin [Ruston, La. – Graphic Design, 2009]), a business offering fun, and comfortable collegiate and MLB women’s lingerie sportswear.

Jones Walker, with more than 200 attorneys, provides the full range of legal services to a national and international corporate client base through offices in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.joneswalker.com.

Team TPSI (Karl Matsumoto [New Orleans, La. – Accounting, 2009], Ling Wu [Hong Kong, Speech, 2008], Jeff Nelson [Pineville, La. – Management/Entrepreneurship, 2010] and Amanda Hollingsworth [Fayette, La. – Management/Entrepreneurship, 2008]) a tire pressure monitoring system, won the $2,000 Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Most Improved Plan award.

Proceeds generated by the Ruston-Lincoln Parish Business Awards Breakfast, a collaborate event of the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Louisiana Tech College of Business, fund the award.

Supporting sponsors for the TOP DAWG include the Louisiana Tech College of Business, Louisiana Tech College of Engineering, and the Louisiana Tech Student Activity Grant.

Judges for this year’s event were Sam Davidson, owner/manager of Samandy L.L.C in Monroe, La., Larry James, CEO of NetNearU in Bryan/College Station, Texas, Miriam Russell, Northeast Regional Director for Louisiana Economic Development, Joel Trammell, Co-Founder and CEO of NetQos in Austin, Texas, and Bob Tucker, Sr. Partner at Jones Walker in Baton Rouge, La.

Eight, multi-disciplinary teams progressed to Saturday’s final round. Teams are scored on the quality of their plan and presentation as well as the overall viability of their business concept. The TOP DAWG was established in 2002 and was organized by the student organization, ABESE (The Association of Business Engineering and Science Entrepreneurs). ABESE promotes and cultivates an entrepreneurial culture on the Tech campus.