

News Release

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\$5,000 GRANT TO BE GIVEN TO AREA ENTREPRENEUR

The Iowa Innovation Gateway is offering an opportunity for entrepreneurs and small business owners to receive a grant of \$5,000 to be used to help start or grow their business.

This grant, called *DREAM BIG...GROW HERE*, will be given to an entrepreneur or small business owner with 50 or fewer employees and is located in Jasper, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story or Tama county.

In order to qualify for this *DREAM BIG...GROW HERE* grant, the entrepreneur must submit a proposal by August 29, 2011. On-line public voting will be done to identify the top business ideas. The top vote-getters will be given the opportunity to present their ideas to a panel of judges on September 20, 2011. The panel of judges will make the final decision and will award the *DREAM BIG...GROW HERE* \$5,000 grant to the winner.

The Iowa Innovation Gateway invites interested entrepreneurs to learn more and apply for the *DREAM BIG...GROW HERE* grant by logging on at

<http://iowainnovationgateway.com> .

DREAM BIG...GROW HERE regional contest winners will be invited to participate in a statewide pitch-off party hosted via live video streaming this fall for a \$10,000 grand prize judged and awarded by the sponsorship team.

The Iowa Innovation Gateway is a consortium of cross-county and cross-disciplined organizations whose focus is on creating economic development in Jasper, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story and Tama counties. To learn more about Iowa Innovation Gateway log onto their website at <http://iowainnovationgateway.com>