

For Immediate Release
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SCEDF and Verhagen Investments, LLC Announce Plans for 2nd Annual North Judson Business Pitch Competition

North Judson, Ind. – The Starke County Economic Development Foundation, Inc. (SCEDF) and Verhagen Investments, LLC have set a date and selected a venue for Starke Tank – The 2nd Annual North Judson Business Pitch Competition.

The event will help small business owners and entrepreneurs launch or expand their enterprises in or near North Judson. It will take place Saturday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. CDT in the North Judson-San Pierre High School Auditorium, 1 Bluejay Drive, North Judson. Members of the public are invited to attend and watch as each participant presents his or her idea to a panel of judges.

The goal of the competition is to have the winning entry establish a new or expanded business in North Judson or within a three-mile radius of the town. Each participant will receive presentation development assistance from the Indiana Small Business Development Center and SCEDF prior to the competition.

There is no entry fee. Cash prizes will be awarded for first and second place. The competition is not limited to North Judson or Starke County residents, but the prize is contingent on the winner locating in the North Judson area.

Abrams Studios, LLC won the inaugural competition. Brothers Wes, Derek, David and Jason Abrams develop video games and sell 3D assets to other game and film studios. They moved their business to North Judson in 2020 and are now located in the former North Judson-San Pierre Middle School building.

North Judson native Kirt Verhagen and his wife, Elizabeth, were the catalysts behind the competition. “We love the community and want to see it grow and prosper,” Verhagen said.

Participants interested in taking part in Starke Tank – The 2nd Annual North Judson Business Pitch Competition should submit applications to SCEDF by Friday, Aug. 20. Please [follow this link](#) to find the online application and competition rules.

Several local businesses have generously agreed to sponsor Starke Tank – The 2nd Annual North Judson Pitch Competition. They include Kankakee Valley REMC, NIPSCO, North Judson-San Pierre Schools, Kersting's Cycle Center, the Town of North Judson, 1st Choice Insurance, and Osborne Advantage Real Estate. Additional sponsorships are available. Contact SCEDF for more information.

ABOUT SCEDF

The Starke County Economic Development Foundation is a nonprofit local economic development organization (LEDO). It provides economic development opportunities on behalf of Starke County, Ind., the City of Knox, the Towns of North Judson and Hamlet, and all unincorporated areas of Starke County through the development of industrial parks, rail spurs, greenfield sites, shovel-ready sites, infrastructure and workforce development. Visit www.scedf.biz for more information.

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