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INNOV8 Acadiana Hosts Energy Innovators Pitch Challenge at LAGCOE

(Lafayette, LA) – INNOV8 Acadiana, LLC, a Community Foundation of Acadiana (CFA) company, has teamed up with LEDA's Opportunity Machine and LAGCOE to connect the best emerging energy innovators with investors ready to move their business ideas forward. The Energy Innovators Pitch Challenge winners will be showcased during LAGCOE from October 27th-29th, with a culminating pitch event on the 29th.

Applicants may currently submit their innovation/business plan until October 9th via email to the vetting team at INNOV8 Acadiana through the LAGCOE website, found at lagcoe.com/energyinnovators. All energy related businesses and ideas are encouraged to participate. 10 selected candidates will be notified the week of October 12th to participate in the "Shark Tank" style pitch competition on October 29th.

The selected candidates will also be given free table space at LAGCOE's new Energy Innovators Tent to showcase their emerging innovation or idea and pitch their ideas one at a time to everyone interested on October 29th, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Each innovator will be given 3 minutes to pitch their idea to a panel of investors following a 3 minute Q&A in front of a live audience. The best presentation will receive the INNOV8 Award and possible funding for their idea.

Accredited investors are welcome to attend, meet the presenters, and exchange information for follow-up vetting during a brief social after the innovator showcase that will begin at noon.

All 10 candidates will be invited to pitch again on November 14th at the INNOV8 Acadiana Technology and Entrepreneurial Summit in Lafayette. Three winners from the November event will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to New Orleans for Idea Village's New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, where hundreds of investors will also hear their pitch and are motivated to invest.

INNOV8 Acadiana has grown from a One Acadiana (formerly Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce) initiative with a single, annual event into a Community Foundation of Acadiana company with year-round events. INNOV8 Acadiana, LLC (formally INNOV8 Lafayette) is a Community Foundation of Acadiana (CFA) company and services the eight-parish area of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion. As a CFA company, INNOV8 Acadiana is able to accept tax-deductible contributions to help sustain and enhance its mission. INNOV8 Acadiana provides the space and tools to offer exciting, new opportunities for economic development and innovation throughout Acadiana with support from LEDA and One Acadiana. INNOV8 Acadiana is governed by a steering committee of supporters and stakeholders with oversight from CFA's board of directors.

For more information regarding INNOV8 Acadiana, please visit <http://innov8acadiana.org/> or contact executive director, Pete Prados, at 337.739.5850. Like INNOV8 Acadiana on Facebook for more updates on events and future meetups.

LAGCOE is a nonprofit organization that serves the oil and gas industry by hosting one of the world's pioneer oil and gas expositions. LAGCOE has been fueling global energy solutions for 60 years, since 1955. One of the largest oil and gas industry expositions in the United States, LAGCOE is held biennially in the very heart of America's energy corridor: Lafayette, Louisiana. LAGCOE 2015 will be held October 27-29, 2015 at the Cajundome & Convention Center in Lafayette, La. Learn more at lagcoe.com.

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