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Dominion Resources Innovation Center Announces Startup Pitch Competition

Ashland, VA – The Dominion Resources Innovation Center (DRIC), in partnership with Randolph-Macon College (RMC), is inviting emerging technology startups to apply for its 2018 Pitch Competition. The competition will take place on Feb. 20th, 2018 at Birdsong Hall, a state-of-the-art facility on the campus of RMC.

The competition will feature three companies vying for \$10,000 and a one year membership to DRIC. The finalists selected will be given 5 minutes to pitch in front of a panel of judges, followed by live Q&A. Also participating will be two student teams representing RMC, who'll pitch for a separate cash prize and co-working space at DRIC.

“We’re excited about showcasing the next wave of entrepreneurs in Central Virginia,” said Dominic Costanzo, Director of the Dominion Resources Innovation Center. “Competitions such as this not only bring out the most promising emerging startups, but they also bring the startup community together in a way where meaningful connections can occur.”

“The last time we hosted a similar event proved to be a huge success. Continuing to find ways to draw out and support the entrepreneurs within our region is vital to growing a vibrant startup ecosystem,” said Carrie Roth, Chairman of the Board of DRIC and President and CEO of the VA Bio+Tech Park. “Having Randolph-Macon College as a partner in this event is very exciting as well, as our academic institutions are integral pillars to any successful startup ecosystem.”

Randolph-Macon College, located just around the corner from the Innovation Center, will serve host to the competition in February. While being known for its tremendous liberal arts education, The College has a rich history of innovation and entrepreneurship as well, producing a number of notable alumni entrepreneurs over the years. RMC continues to embrace this element, and in recent years, has built out a significant foundational program through The Edge Career Center to support the growing entrepreneurial activity taking place across the student body.

“This is an awesome opportunity for Randolph-Macon College to partner with the Dominion Resources Innovation Center,” said Dontrese Brown, Executive Director of The Edge Career Development Program at RMC. “It exposes our students to a platform to express and share their liberal arts education as critical thinkers, innovators and effective transformational leaders within our communities. What an extraordinary range of potential this partnership holds.”

Finalists will be selected from an open application process, which is set to go live on December 15, 2017. Companies interested in learning more and applying can visit www.dominnovation.com/2018-pitch-competition/. Applications will close by midnight on January 31st.

[About the Dominion Resources Innovation Center](#)

The Dominion Resources Innovation Center is an affiliated innovation center of the VA Bio+Tech Park that supports early-stage technology companies by providing them with the collaborative space, guidance, and resources needed to accelerate their growth.

Founded in November 2009, the Dominion Resources Innovation Center supports great ideas across a wide spectrum of industry sectors in addition to its original focus on building the alternative, renewable energy sector in Central Virginia. Founding partners of this program include the signature sponsor, Dominion Energy, as well as the VA Bio+Tech Park, the Town of Ashland and Hanover County.

About The Edge Center for Entrepreneurship at Randolph-Macon College

The Edge Center for Entrepreneurship combines innovation with critical transferable skills to help students apply their liberal arts education to launch their own businesses, create lasting networks, and reach their personal and career potential.

Visit Dominion Resources Innovation Center at www.dominnovation.com to learn more.

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