UNC Asheville Social Entrepreneurship Competition Judges

November 30, 2015
9:00
Sherrill Building room 417 (Mountain View Room)

Justin Belleme is a graduate of UNC Asheville and the founder and Director of Strategy at JB Media Group, a full service Internet marketing agency and a co-founder and instructor at the JB Media Institute, a comprehensive online marketing education program. He was named the 2014 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Asheville Area of Chamber of Commerce, is a member of Asheville's 40 Under Forty and a recipient of The Order of the Pisgah from UNC Asheville which recognizes exemplary service to the community and university. www.jbmediagroupllc.com/

Bradley J. Cain is the COO of the Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas. Most of his career has been as a turnaround / restructuring manager, but he now spends most of his time running a not-for-profit regional fiber network, enhancing sustainability of an organization supporting the social, healthcare, education, economic development, and government sectors across WNC. Over the past five years, he has started four businesses. Three have been solidly bootstrapped to self-sufficiency. Early in his career, he spent time in the capital markets and briefly as a mechanical engineer designing satellite / aerospace components. www.ercwnc.org

Rebecca E. Crandall is an intellectual property attorney with McGuire Wood & Bissette. As the only North Carolina Board Certified Trademark Specialist in Western North Carolina, she enjoys working with clients from the early stages of brand selection through clearance, registration, defense, and enforcement. A registered patent attorney, Rebecca offers services in patent preparation and prosecution. She also drafts, revises, and provides advice regarding agreements relating to IP transactions, including confidentiality, vendor, and license agreements as well as acquisitions and franchises. www.mwblawyers.com

Angela Clontz Newnam is the founder and CEO of Knock out, an award-winning line of patented sleepwear and undergarments for men and women. She grew up in Tryon, NC, attended the University of Virginia and Harvard Business School and was employed at McKinsey & Company for several years. She has worked in manufacturing, supply chain and strategy across multiple industries including textiles. She founded Knock out in 2010 and has expanded the business to over 800 retailers and online sellers. Her company has been featured by Oprah, Redbook, Prevention, Business Week and other publications. In 2012 Knock out won Harvard's Global New Venture Award and in 2011 the company was named a Top 10 Startup by the Kauffman Foundation. www.KnockoutPanties.com

Meg Ragland is President of Plum Print. She is responsible for both the Plum Print sales and the marketing teams. Plum Print takes the overwhelming piles of artwork that children create, transforms them into digital archives and prints elegant coffee-table books. Plum Print solves the storage problem so many parents face and provides children with easy access to their most creative years without having to dig through dusty boxes in the attic. Since launch, Plum Print has created more than 3000 books and brought in over $650,000 in revenue. Meg is a Cornell University graduate, has worked as a magazine editor (Family Circle, Woman’s Day, Parents), and has had appearances on GMA, Fox News, and NBC News. www.plumprint.com
Ryan Taylor is a Business Counselor at the Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC). He began working at Western Carolina University in 2010 as a member of the Small Business & Technology Development Center’s Technology Commercialization team, providing product development counseling services to customers of the university’s Center for Rapid Product Realization. He recently transitioned into a general business counselor role with the SBTDC in Asheville and focuses on working with existing midsize businesses. Ryan holds an undergraduate Marketing degree, a Master of Entrepreneurship Graduate Certificate and a Master of Business Administration degree from Western Carolina University. www.sbtdc.org