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PRESS RELEASE

Cape Ann Business Incubator and the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Announce ***The 2010 North of Boston Business Plan Competition.***

Gloucester, January 12, 2010: Are you considering starting a new business? Are you a start-up under three years young looking to expand to 5 or more employees in the next two years? Would a check for \$5,000 and the opportunity to present in front of major investors on Cape Ann interest you?

If so, Cape Ann Business Incubator and the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce would like you to know about an upcoming business plan competition they are co-sponsoring and how they can help you participate.

The Enterprise Center at Salem State College, in conjunction with leading business organizations throughout Essex County and Merrimack Valley, is conducting the sixth annual North of Boston Business Plan Competition designed to find and support early stage, start-up and existing growth businesses on the North Shore and Merrimack Valley.

The deadline is quickly approaching for entrepreneurs to enter the Business Plan Competition. **First prize this year is \$5,000.** All entry forms and executive summaries must be delivered to the Enterprise Center at Salem State College no later than 5:00pm on January 28, 2010 in order to be eligible for the 2010 competition. The actual **business plans are due February, 26 by 5:00 p.m.** All entry forms, instructions, eligibility requirements and other information can be found at www.enterprisectr.org/bpc

Anyone interested in participating in the competition is encouraged to take advantage of the following local business resources:

CAPE ANN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Activating Your Entrepreneurial Spirit Seminar to be held on Saturday, January 23 8:30a-4p. This all-day seminar provides valuable information, ideas and advice on issues that will affect your business. Topics include Financing, Legal Considerations, Business Insurance, Lease Negotiations, Marketing and Business Promotion and more...

Business counseling at the Chamber with Walter Manninen of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Walter works with business owners to help them "package" their loans, develop their business plan and financial projections, and assemble other documents required by lenders.

For more information and to register Call 978.283.1601 or info@capeannchamber.com

CAPE ANN BUSINESS INCUBATOR (CABI):

How to Write a Business Plan Seminar on Tuesday, January 26 from 10a-noon. This seminar covers all the components of an effective business plan.

THE SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES (SCORE) BUSINESS COUNSELING:

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), a resource partner of the Small Business Administration, offers free business advice and resource information to prospective and existing business owners at Cape Ann Business Incubator (CABI), 72 Rogers St., Gloucester, every Tuesday from 10am to 4pm.

Using a 3-person team approach, SCORE's accredited counselors help develop a business plan, test the potential of a new business idea or determine the best solution to a business problem.

For more information, visit www.scorenemass.org and call 978.282.7779 to make an appointment.