



**Entrepreneurs'
Organization
Houston**

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**Entrepreneurs' Organization-Houston challenges veterans to become entrepreneurs at
"Veterans Business Battle"**

Applications now accepted for business plan competition that pairs veterans with investors

HOUSTON -- The Houston Chapter of Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO), along with Rice University's Veterans in Business Association (VIBA), are proud to announce the return of the **EO-Houston Veterans Business Battle**.

Applications are now being accepted for the business plan competition, which is open to honorably discharged veterans who have a business idea or an existing business that needs investment to grow.

Last year, more than \$900,000 of investment offers were extended to finalists and was instrumental in growing the network of veteran-owned businesses. Investments came in the form of loans and equity investments in the companies.

Now in its second year, the competition gives former service members an opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel of successful entrepreneurs and qualified investors for a chance at significant seed capital.

Selected finalists will be invited to the **EO-Houston Veterans Business Battle** on February 26-27 at Rice University, where they will present their business idea to investors eager to support veteran entrepreneurship.

This event will give veterans practical insights into starting and growing a businesses and give them access to Entrepreneurs' Organization-Houston's diverse and valuable pool of resources.

"Veterans have the work ethic, leadership skills and flexibility to become great entrepreneurs," said Executive Director Phil Butcher. "We are excited to see the ideas veterans bring this year."

All types of businesses are encouraged. The objective of this competition is to launch as many businesses as possible.

"The Veterans' Business Battle was crucial," said Jim Murphy, owner of INVICTA Challenge and a 2015 winner. "I could not have brought my brand and products to market this fall without the opportunity to compete and win."

To compete, individuals or teams must submit a business plan through the competition's website, www.vetbizbattle.com, by January 8, along with documentation verifying their service. Finalists will be notified by Feb. 1 of their invitation to participate in the Feb. 26-27 event at Rice University.

Those interested in competing should visit www.vetbizbattle.com or call 832-236-9609.

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Veterans Business Battle was established in 2015 by The Houston chapter of Entrepreneurs' Organization and Rice University's Veterans in Business Association. The competition aims to foster entrepreneurship among veterans, grow veteran-owned businesses and give back to veterans seeking to make a difference in the business world. For more information, visit www.vetbizbattle.com