South Dakota Engineering Accelerator program participants pitch at Innovation Expo in Rapid City

**Rapid City, South Dakota** - Business teams that are participating in the South Dakota Engineering Accelerator program were featured at a local entrepreneurship conference on September 29th at the Holiday Inn – Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City.

Ten teams from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are currently participating in a business accelerator program created by the Enterprise Institute and funded by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation. The teams are comprised of mix of students, faculty, and entrepreneurs-in-residence. The teams showcased their technologies and elevator pitches to a group of investors and community stakeholders at a breakfast before the Innovation Expo conference started.

Innovation Expo is an entrepreneurship conference that encourages and celebrates entrepreneurship and connects those who are involved in the process including: investors, business developers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, etc.. The Enterprise Institute expanded the event to Rapid City, South Dakota this year. More information can be found at the event website: [www.sdinnovationexpo.com](http://www.sdinnovationexpo.com).

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About the Innovation Expo:

Innovation Expo is an entrepreneurship conference that encourages and celebrates entrepreneurship and connects those who are involved in the process including: investors, business developers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, etc. The Enterprise Institute has held this event in the eastern part of the State for the last 12 years and is expanding it to Rapid City this year.

About the Enterprise Institute:

The Enterprise Institute began in 2001 when a group of business leaders and entrepreneurs decided to help identify and launch high growth businesses in South Dakota. The mission of the Enterprise Institute is to encourage and assist the establishment of growth enterprises in the state. Since 2006, the Enterprise Institute has organized and currently administers seven member managed angel investment funds in the state of South Dakota. To date the funds include over 130 individual accredited investors and have raised over $7,500,000 to invest in startup companies in the state and region.

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