

Fifth Winner Added at TechSandBox Pitch Competition

Health/Bio, Software for Veterans and Battery Recycling Are Tops

HOPKINTON, MA– **December 12, 2016** –TechSandBox™, the MetroWest innovation hub for science and technology companies, is pleased to announce the winners of its annual [Pitch Fest Competition](#), held on December 8th.

Fourteen companies made it to the finals after a first round of judging and coaching. At the Finals, \$5K in prize money was awarded by a panel of professional investors (Judging Panel), a panel affiliated with Higher Ed (Student Choice Judges) sponsored by WPI Foisie School of Business, a special Clean Tech category Sponsored by MassCEC (Judging Panel), and one chosen by the whole Audience (Audience Choice) through ballots.

“The surprise of the night”, said Barb Finer, CEO of TechSandBox, “is that the Student Judges couldn’t decide and ended up with a tie between two student Finalists”. The award money for the student category was split.

Todd Keiller, Director, Intellectual Property and Innovation at WPI, led the deliberations with the Student Pitch Judges (Gwen Farrell, Insperity, Kapeel Krishana, Merrimack College, Mike Miller, MassDevelopment (retired) and Joel Schwartz, EMC (retired)).

“We had two outstanding presentations, with both being so passionate about their idea. They are completely different areas, and we thought the only fair thing to do was to recognize both and share the prize”, commented Keiller.

This year, there were fewer software product companies with several finalists in the medical, healthcare and biotech space resulting in three of the five winners in the life sciences.

The Winners:

- [iHope Network](#), Wenham, MA, Tom Hunter, CEO: Judges Choice
- [CareThread](#), Providence, RI, Nick Adams, Co-Founder and President, Audience Choice
- [Battery Resources](#), N.Grafton, MA, Eric Gratz, PhD, CEO, Judges Choice for Clean Tech
- [DropZoneForVets](#), Courtney Wilson, Student Pitch Winner (Babson) and [AMProtection](#), Todd Alexander, Student Pitch Winner (WPI) Student Prizes

This was the 4th Pitch Fest which is held annually at TechSandBox the 2nd Thursday of December.

About TechSandBox <http://www.techsandbox.org/>

The Mission of TechSandBox is to accelerate the success of science and technology entrepreneurs based in the 35+ cities and towns located near the I495, I90, Rt.9 corridors of Massachusetts and serve as a hub for the technology sector in this region.



As a physical destination, the goal of TechSandBox is to facilitate access to information, education, and expertise, and inspire the sense of community and collaboration necessary to attract, grow and retain exciting businesses in the region. TechSandBox offers 24x7 access to qualified Entrepreneurs in its co-working bullpen, along with mentoring, educational programs, and electronics lab.

The company is a 501(c)(3) not for profit entity and is on Guidestar.