Pitch Dingman Informal Sessions

When: Every Friday between 11a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Dingman Center, 2518 Van Munching Hall
What: Entrepreneurs-in-Residence are available to hear and evaluate new business ideas. No written business plans or Power Point Presentations are needed at this stage. Students give a short (3-5 minute) pitch or a persuasive overview of their idea and we provide actionable feedback. Students who already own and run established businesses are encouraged to come to the Pitch Dingman sessions for more advanced advice on how best to position their business for future success.

This is a risk-free opportunity to develop your business idea and get important feedback on the viability of your business concept. Pitch Dingman is an excellent introduction to the wide network and support services the Dingman Center delivers to the UMD community.

To pitch your idea at one of the weekly informal Pitch Dingman sessions, show up prepared to talk about your idea. Our informal sessions are ‘closed-door’ – allowing you to focus your attention on your presentation and our feedback. Other students will not be able to listen in on your session. Questions? PitchDingman@rhsmith.umd.edu.

Pitch Dingman Competitions

When: Twice a semester
Where: Van Munching Hall
What: Students compete for $2,750 in start-up funding for their business. Everyone is welcome to attend Pitch Dingman Competitions as an audience member and there is no need to register. At the competition, five contestants, each get six minutes to deliver their pitch, followed by 2-3 minutes of questions from the judges (University of Maryland alumni and entrepreneurs).

After all participants have delivered their pitches, the judges leave the competition room to deliberate and choose the winner(s) of $2,500. In the meantime, audience members cast their vote for the $250 Audience Choice Award. After the winners are announced, participants are encouraged to stay for a few minutes to ask judges for feedback and advice.

Think you're ready to compete?

Eligibility:
- Must be a current student at the University of Maryland, College Park
- Must have attended a Pitch Dingman informal session
- Must show progress from feedback received and have approval from an Entrepreneur-in-Residence to compete

To apply, submit the following to PitchDingman@rhsmith.umd.edu:
- Your name, major, prospective graduation date
- 100-word description of your business idea