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Mesa West Rotary, ASU partner on challenge

TRIBUNE NEWS STAFF

Local entrepreneurs have until March 7 to apply for a unique challenge co-sponsored by the Mesa West Rotary Club and the Arizona State University J. Orin Edson Entrepreneurship + Innovation Institute (Edson E+I).

The Edson E+I Igniting Innovation Venture Challenge marks the finale of the three-part Edson E+I Creative Tech Innovation Series, in which “innovators shared their groundbreaking ideas, pushing the boundaries of creativity and technology to create a brighter, more innovative future,” Rotary President Gerald E. Paulus said.

The challenge awards up to \$5,000, donated by the Mesa West Rotary Club, in seed grant capital to local entrepreneurs “whose objective is to provide a scalable solution with profound local impact to advance the overall development of their venture toward resilience.”

Paulus explained, “Our Rotary district theme is “Rotary Means Business,” and this initiative aligns with our commitment to fostering young entrepreneurs, local economic development and support to innovative thinkers. “By giving young entrepreneurs a stage to present their ideas and learn from

experienced professionals, we’re helping them turn their visions into reality.”

People can also attend the challenge event in person 5-7:30 p.m. March 27 at The Studios@Mesa City Center, 59 E. 1st St.

Young entrepreneurs will pitch their business to a panel of judges who will be awarding business support to the entrepreneurs in order to move the dial on their business venture.

Selection criteria will include the originality of the business venture, income already being generated, the feasibility of the business plan, and the potential for growth and community impact.

Participating entrepreneurs will get direct guidance and expert advice from the judges, a network of professionals to tap into and increased visibility.

“We have created a supportive, inclusive environment where young entrepreneurs can thrive,” said Kristin Slice, director of community entrepreneurship, Edson E+I. “Our goal is to empower participants with the knowledge, resources, and confidence they need to succeed in today’s competitive business world.” ■

Registration and applications are at entrepreneurship.asu.edu/e_i_events.

Questions: info.studiosmesa@asu.edu

MPS slates school choice fair

TRIBUNE NEWS STAFF

Parents and students can learn more about Mesa Public Schools’ academic programs, extracurricular activities and learning options.

The district is hosting a school choice fair 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Mountain View High School’s Performing Arts Center, 2700 E. Brown Road.

Superintendent Andi Fourlis said, “The School Choice Fair is a valuable opportunity for families to learn more about the exceptional programs that make Mesa Public Schools a leader in education.” MPS, the state’s largest school district with over 50,000 students, of-

fers a wide range of educational pathways, including specialized programs in STEM and the arts, dual-language immersion, career and technical education and more.

Event highlights:

- Representatives from schools and programs across the district will be available to answer questions and provide detailed information.
- Discover how Mesa Public Schools fosters academic excellence, creativity, and innovation in a supportive and inclusive environment.
- Interactive displays that highlight the district’s unique educational opportunities.
- Performances and raffles. ■