



Strengthening Stark and Stark Education Partnership to virtually host Stark Tank April 29

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CANTON — Strengthening Stark will host a virtual competition via Facebook Live on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Our sharks include Dominic Bagnoli (US Acute Care Solutions), Mark Fedor (Morgan Engineering), Sue Grabowski (DESIDARA), and Kenneth Brott (KDB Services). Nine high school finalist teams present their business plans in hopes of getting one or more of our local “shark” judges to buy into their business. In addition to a possible share investment, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500 respectively provided by Stark Tank collaborative partner, Stark Education Partnership.

Our Sharks are coming together with the goal of encouraging entrepreneurial spirits in Stark County’s youth. “When I started my business in 1997, I didn’t have much guidance. I want to help others, especially young entrepreneurs in my area, learn from my experience,” says Sue Grabowski (DESIDARA). Similar sentiments were noted from the other judges as well. When asked what they would be looking for from the participating teams, Kenneth Brott answers, “Ideas and energy.” Other judges look forward to hearing how participants would deal with an unprecedented event like COVID-19, and will look for not only a desire to learn, but a clear description of how they will take their projects through the next steps in the current global environment.

“We’re excited to showcase the amazing young entrepreneurs we have here in Stark County, and also bring some fun to a Wednesday afternoon during this time,” says Rebecca Kuzma of Strengthening Stark. “It is a small glimpse of how the next generation could breathe to life in our communities. It is important to get the right people to see it and listen.”

Viewers are encouraged to witness the future of Stark County present their plans by visiting www.facebook.com/strengtheningstark on Facebook at 2:30pm on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Follow Strengthening Stark on Facebook prior to the event for a notification that the event has begun.

Strengthening Stark is a movement for collaboration between local organizations, businesses, churches, and foundations who all have the common goal of strengthening Stark County.