**Sigma Nu Tau 3rd Annual**

**National Student Entrepreneur-of-the-Year Award Program**

**Purpose:** To encourage, recognize, honor, and reward successful student entrepreneurs who are practicing principled entrepreneurship in their business ventures.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

(1) Must be degree-seeking, matriculated students in good standing at schools with an active Sigma Nu Tau

 Entrepreneurship Honor Society chapter

(2) Students may be either undergraduate- or graduate-level students.

(3) Students may be either full- or part-time students.

**Award Categories:**

Each Sigma Nu Tau chapter is eligible to nominate up to one (1) student entrepreneur (who has started a business that is up and running) in each of the following three (3) categories:

(1) **High Technology** (e.g., biotechnology, IT- or science-based ventures, etc.)

(2) **Main Street** (all other commercial ventures)

(3) **Social** (e.g., not-for-profits or for-profits with socially-based/responsible missions)

**Prizes to be Awarded:**

1. The student entrepreneur selected as the “Sigma Nu Tau National Student Entrepreneur of the Year” will receive a glass plaque and a $500 prize.

2. The students selected as 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up will receive engraved plaques.

3. The Student Entrepreneur of the Year (1st place), the 1st runner-up, and the 2nd runner-up will be featured on the awards page of the Sigma Nu Tau Entrepreneurship Honor Society website, which will be updated annually.

4. The student named as the “Sigma Nu Tau National Student Entrepreneur-of-the-Year” will be invited to serve on the finalist judging panel the following year provided that there are no nominees for their school.

5. News releases will be sent out to promote the program and the winners, and feature articles will be sought in entrepreneur-themed publications, such as *Entrepreneur* or *INC.* magazines.

**Competition Timeline:**

* September 1: Announcement of the awards program
* September 1 – December 31: Promotion of award program to all chapters via e-mail & website, to relevant organizations (CEO, USASBE, SIFE, DECA, SBANC, Entrepreneurship Educator, etc.) via news releases, and to schools with entrepreneurship programs via Sigma Nu Tau e-newsletter.
* September 15 – January 15: Nomination of student entrepreneurs and submission of application materials by student nominees
* January 16 – February 28: Deliberation by panel of judges
* March 1 – March 31: Logistics (ordering plaque, preparation of certificates, award check, news releases)
* April 1: Announcement of Sigma Nu Tau National Student Entrepreneur of the Year and runners-up

**The Nomination Process:**

(1) The Faculty Advisor and Faculty Secretary, together with the student leadership of each Sigma Nu Tau chapter, should ensure that students at their school are aware of this program.

(2) Each Sigma Nu Tau chapter should determine how they will select up to one (1) nominee in each award category.

(3) Selection of nominees by each school, as well as judging at the national level, will draw on the concept of “principled entrepreneurship.” Charles G. Koch, author of ***The Science of Success*** and CEO of Koch Industries***,*** coined the term, “principled entrepreneurship,” which is exemplified by entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial employees who “demonstrate the sense of urgency, discipline, judgment, initiative, economic and critical thinking skills, and the risk-taking mentality necessary to generate the greatest contribution to the company and society.” Hence, the following seven (7) criteria will be used to evaluate the student nominees and select the winners. The student entrepreneur should demonstrate the following characteristics:

* a sense of urgency
* discipline
* accountability
* judgment
* initiative and passion
* economic and critical thinking skills
* risk-taking mentality

**Application Requirements for Student Nominees:**

1. Application Cover Sheet (1 page maximum) *must include* the following:

1. Nominee’s contact information (name, address, phone number(s), email address(es))
2. Name of college/university
3. State your academic major(s) and minor, if applicable.
4. State whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student.
5. State the award category in which you have been nominated : (1) High Technology, (2) Main Street or (3) Social. (You may only be nominated in one award category.)
6. State the name of the business venture for which you are being nominated, the business address, and any other contact information for your venture (such as phone, fax, website, email, etc.). Provide a brief summary of your business venture.

2. Application Content (Part a – 5-page maximum and Part b – 5-page maximum)

Part a) Describe how you have demonstrated the 7 characteristics of principled entrepreneurship in creating

and operating your business venture. [Technical Requirements: 5 pages maximum, 12 pt. Times New

Roman font, 8-1/2” x 11” paper with 1” margins on all sides.]

Part b) Nominees may also submit up to 5 pages of supporting documents in an appendix (i.e., other material

 such as tables, photos, drawings, schematics, flow charts, etc.)

3. Application Deadline - Must be *received* by 11:59 pm EST on January 15th:

1. Applications must be submitted electronically as PDF or WORD files only.
2. Applications should be submitted to: SigmaNuTauEntHonorSociety@gmail.com
3. To obtain further information or to ask questions, contact Dr. Nancy J. Church at (518)-564-4169.