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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Northwest Iowa Development Announces Voting for Dream Big Grow Here Contest**

Voting for the **Dream Big Grow Here Contest** began February 16<sup>th</sup> and will end on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM Central time. There are many Northwest Iowa Dreamers who have submitted their ideas and entered **Iowa's West Coast Regional Contest**. Visit the website at [www.dreambiggrowhere.com](http://www.dreambiggrowhere.com) to vote one time per day for your favorite project. The Dream Big Grow Here Contest is part of UNI's MyEntre.Net program and is a business grant contest that provides an opportunity for Iowans to fulfill their dream of self-employment or expansion of their current business.

#### **Iowa's West Coast Regional Contest:**

Applicants from eight counties in Northwest Iowa have the opportunity to win an additional **\$5,000 grant** by entering the Dream Big Grow Here contest under Iowa's West Coast Regional Contest. The top five entries with the most votes in Northwest Iowa will advance to the regional pitch off on **April 29<sup>th</sup>** in **Sioux City** for a chance to win \$5,000. The six counties represented by Northwest Iowa Development, (Cherokee, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth and Sioux) have joined with Monona and Woodbury counties to form Iowa's West Coast Region Contest.

#### **How the Dream Big Grow Here Contest Works:**

Each Dreamer has entered the contest in one of six industry specific categories. Each category will have five applicants chosen to pitch their idea at UNI's **EntreFEST 2015** held in Iowa City on **May 21<sup>st</sup>** with the six category winners each receiving a **\$5,000 grant**. The top vote recipient from each category will be invited to the EntreFEST pitch off along with four others from each category chosen based on the quality of their application. Winners in each of the industry specific categories go on to compete for a **grand prize of \$10,000** later in the day on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The six industry specific categories are: Ag Innovation, Hospitality/Restaurants, Manufacturing/Bioscience/IT, Pre-Revenue, Professional Services and Retail/Wholesale.

Northwest Iowa Development is a group of six counties and their communities creating a unified, targeted approach to developing and branding/marketing the Northwest Iowa region to attract quality new corporate locations and expansions and to attract skilled talent to support business growth. For more information visit [www.northwestiowa.com](http://www.northwestiowa.com).