

PRESS RELEASE



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\$20,000 COULD BE YOURS: KITSAP BANK'S edg3 FUND SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITION LAUNCHES JULY 1ST

Port Orchard, WA

Kitsap Bank has a question for entrepreneurs and small business owners: What could you do for your business, if you had an extra \$20,000? Contestants will have the opportunity to answer that question and compete for \$20,000 in the bank's second annual edg3 FUND small business competition. edg3 FUND, which had its inaugural year in 2014, recognizes entrepreneurs dedicated to growing our community in three ways: economically, socially, and environmentally. "Last year's competition produced 70 applicants representing a wide range of industries, stretching from the Olympic Peninsula to our state Capitol," stated Tony George, Kitsap Bank's President and Chief Operating Officer. "Some very creative and hardworking entrepreneurs shared their unique stories with us; and we look forward to meeting even more of these innovative companies this year."

The four-week application period begins July 1st and runs through July 31st. Visit <http://www.kitsapbank.com/edg3-fund> to download the application and official rules. After the application period ends, semifinalists will be chosen, with public



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voting taking place through Kitsap Bank's website September 15-30.

The public will help to select the top five finalists, who will present their pitches at a live event on November 12, 2015 at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton. An independent panel of judges will determine the winner. For-profit small businesses based in Western Washington that have a positive economic, social, and environmental impact on the communities Kitsap Bank serves are encouraged to apply. The business needs to have a commitment to their idea and concept, and make the case for how the prize money will give their business an edge.

The winner of last year's \$20,000 edg3 FUND prize was Pawzii, Inc. Founded in Bremerton with offices in Seattle, Pawzii, Inc., is the developer an online pet licensing solution and a Trap/Neuter/Release program. Their solutions have been utilized by numerous animal welfare organizations throughout the U.S., including Kitsap Humane Society, Regional Animal Services of King County, Seattle Animal Shelter, Pasado's Safe Haven, and Motley Zoo.

Established August 8, 1908, Kitsap Bank is headquartered in Port Orchard, WA, operating 20 locations throughout Western Washington. With over \$1 Billion in assets, the bank provides a full range of financial services to commercial and individual customers. Kitsap Bank has been named a Preferred Lender by the U. S. Small Business Administration, a Top

Corporate Philanthropist by the Puget Sound Business Journal, and has been awarded a 5-Star rating by BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading independent bank rating firm.

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