

Public Disclosure and Confidentiality Notice

By participating in the **J. Donald Lee Center for Entrepreneurship Business Plan Competition at Valdosta State University (VSU)**, entrants acknowledge and agree to the following terms regarding the public nature of the competition and the handling of information shared during the event:

1. Public Nature of Competition Sessions

All sessions of the competition—including, but not limited to, oral presentations, video and slide deck submissions, and question-and-answer sessions—are open to the public. These sessions may be recorded, broadcast, or otherwise shared through various media, including radio, television, print publications, and the Internet.

2. No Expectation of Confidentiality

Any data, ideas, or proprietary information discussed, presented, or disclosed during the competition should be considered public information. Participants should assume that any information shared during the competition may become publicly accessible. Entrants should not expect or claim any right of confidentiality regarding any aspect of their business plan, presentation, or related discussions.

3. No Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)

Due to the structure of the competition, neither the organizers, judges, reviewers, sponsors, staff, nor audience members will be required to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). Participants are solely responsible for determining the level of detail they wish to disclose regarding their business ideas and proprietary information.

4. Waiver of Liability for Disclosure

By participating in the competition, entrants expressly acknowledge and agree that neither Valdosta State University, the J. Donald Lee Center for Entrepreneurship, competition organizers, judges, reviewers, sponsors (and their affiliated organizations), nor any other associated individuals or entities assume any liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect disclosure, reproduction, or use of information shared during the competition—whether inadvertent or intentional—by any judge, reviewer, staff member, audience member, or third party.

5. Participant Responsibility

Participants bear full responsibility for protecting any confidential, proprietary, or trade-secret information they do not wish to disclose publicly. It is strongly recommended that entrants take appropriate measures (such as filing for

intellectual property protections, patents, or trademarks) before sharing sensitive business details in a public forum.

By submitting an entry and participating in the competition, entrants confirm their understanding and acceptance of these terms.