

Ideas Contest and Casting Call

Dear Supporters,

The Google Twin Ports Fiber Initiative has two big opportunities you can help with Saturday.

The Google Twin Ports Fiber Initiative is running a contest for anyone age 18 or older, to provide an idea for a business they'd like to launch, which would benefit from a fiber-to-the-home network like the one proposed by Google. Five winners will be chosen for the best business concepts. See a video about it from Mayor Don Ness here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2xRu0KVYNk>

Each winner will receive:

1. \$500 cash
2. Complimentary business plan assistance from the UMD Center for Economic Development.
3. Free Enrollment in Northeast Entrepreneur Fund's "Build a Business...Here's How". Value \$149.
4. An opportunity to present the business plan to a panel of Duluth business leaders.
5. An introduction to regional economic development finance programs.

When is the application deadline? March 18

Who can apply? Any Twin Ports resident or student over 18 years of age.

Why are we doing this? We want to demonstrate that Duluth is the best entrepreneurial environment for fiber-based business.

What is a fiber-based business? Any business that needs a minimum 10 megabit per second upload and download speeds between the business and its customers, clients and suppliers. Essentially, we're looking for innovative business ideas.

Do I have to prepare a business plan to apply? No, this award is for business concepts. The winners will have the opportunity to develop a business plan with support from the region's leading business planning consultants. To submit your ideas, go to: <http://www.googletwinports.com/idea-award.php>

If you haven't heard, we're also holding a **casting call** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday March 13, at the Carnegie Building at 101 W. 2nd St. Suite 200 in Duluth for six speaking roles in a movie we're sending to Google. If you can't make it to that, be sure to come to our Google Fest Movie from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 20, where we'll be shooting crowd scenes at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

Thanks,

Patrick Garmoe

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<http://www.googletwinports.com>