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Three Syracuse University student-led teams win awards in the New York Business Plan Competition

Three Syracuse University student teams won top awards in the New York State Business Plan Competition, held April 29 in Albany. Nearly 500 statewide teams from 64 colleges and universities competed in ten regional qualifiers to make it to the statewide finals. Of those, 82 final teams were selected to pitch at the largest student business plan competition in the country. Six of those teams were led by Syracuse University students.

CompeteCNY, the regional qualifier for the New York Business Plan Competition was hosted earlier in April at Bird Library, coordinated by the Blackstone LaunchPad and the Student Sandbox.

PowerSpike, led by Angelo Damiano '18, Martin J. Whitman School of Management, won second-place overall in the Information Technology/Software category at the statewide competition. Damiano is CEO of [PowerSpike](#), which he founded in July 2015. Damiano has garnered awards for PowerSpike in multiple university business competitions including: The Panasci Business Plan Competition, Orange Tank Business Competition, Regional ACC Innovation Challenge, Compete CNY and the New York State Business Plan Competition.

Also winning awards at the statewide competition were Thrive and Out There Productions. Both companies took top honors in the “Esprit de Corps” category – the judge’s choice for most engaging presentations based on content, presentation style, strong sense of camaraderie among team members, and excitement generated about their venture.

[Thrive Projects team](#) members Brian Kam '16, Ryan Brinkerhoff '17 and Joshua Moon '16 won the “Esprit” award in the Energy/Sustainability category for S.P.A.R.K. – a renewable, rechargeable mobile power unit to assist communities with first-responder needs such as power and communications. They are headed to Nepal in May to field test the units and teach residents how to develop their own units in an effort to help build more sustainable communities in areas that are prone earthquakes and other natural disasters. Read more about their venture at www.thriveproject.org.

Erin Miller '16, Johnny Rosa '16 and Losa Amara '16, the team propelling [Out There Productions](#), won the “Esprit” award in the Products/Service categories for their venture which produces videos for startup companies that can be used for marketing, viral online campaigns, and funding pitches. The team is currently outfitting a bus they have purchased to take it on the road next year as their full-time

venture to visit communities across the country and tell the stories of startups they meet on their journey. Follow their adventures on their [blog](#).

National venture capitalists, angel investors, and investment bankers selected the winning teams in six sectors that included nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology, clean energy, products and services, and social enterprise. The competition was held at SUNY Poly's Albany Nanotech Complex. Collegiate presenters included SUNY Poly, the University at Albany's School of Business, and Syracuse University.

For more information about the 2016 New York Business Plan Competition visit <http://www.nybplan.com>.

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