

The Schuylkill Chamber is excited to present an evening of innovation and celebration as the four IGNITE Schuylkill finalists pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges, competing for \$100,000 in startup capital. IGNITE Schuylkill is an entrepreneurial development program designed to support and nurture the growth of early-stage businesses. By investing in human capital, the program aims to create a non-traditional form of economic development, fostering a community where emerging businesses can succeed and thrive.

As the economy undergoes a cyclical and philosophical change, downtown areas and small businesses across the nation are being romanticized. According to JP Morgan Chase & Co., over 99 percent of America's 28.7 million firms are small businesses, which have created over 50 percent of new jobs in recent years. The IGNITE Schuylkill program is focused on boosting the local economy by strengthening Schuylkill County's business community in density and quality.

The finalists, Lexis Brownstein with The Villa, Hannah Corbacio and Nick Hair with The Rosalia Hotel, Angela & Josiah Meck with The Farm Store, and James Metsopoulos with HomeBox, are set to showcase their entrepreneurial visions. The event promises a range of highlights, including a delectable dinner featuring selections from multiple local restaurants, an open beer and wine bar, and the thrilling Ignite Schuylkill Final Pitches. Following the competition, guests can participate in a celebratory reception to honor the finalists' achievements.

This event is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and the promising future of Schuylkill County's economy. The evening will commence with a cocktail hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by the program start at 6:00 p.m., the award announcement at 7:45 p.m., and the celebratory reception from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We look forward to celebrating this program and the achievements of our community's aspiring entrepreneurs!