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On January 16, 2013 The Coastal Bend Business Plan Competition Committee announced the 15 Semi Finalists who have advanced to Phase II of the 2013 Business Plan Competition.

The conference opened with a welcome from Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center Director Bill Cone, who then introduced the Honorable State Representative Todd Hunter.

State Representative Todd Hunter congratulated the Semi Finalists and encouraged them to move forward on their projects. Representative Hunter also expressed the importance of Economic Development in the Coastal Bend Area, praising the semifinalists to keep their innovative ideas in our community and assist in creating job opportunities for our graduating students in the Coastal Bend Area.

Chair Sandy Billish introduced the Semi Finalists and had each of them give a brief description of their project.

The 15 teams are comprised of students and Faculty from Texas A & M Corpus Christi, Texas A & M Kingsville, clients of the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center and area business owners who have come up with innovative technology ideas for their businesses.

The Semi Finalists were selected based on business plan components that include defining the market problems, product/service ideas, markets served, customer value, revenue generation and economic impact for the Coastal Bend.

The Semi Finalists were also encouraged by Dr. Stephan Nix, Dean of the Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering for Texas A & M Kingsville and Dr. John Fernandez, Professor and Chair, Texas A & M Corpus Christi, college of Science and Engineering.

The Semi Finalists will submit a more comprehensive business plan and present their proposal before a panel of judges on May 20<sup>th</sup> and the results of the competition will be announced on May 22, 2013.

### About the Coastal Bend Business Plan Competition

The Coastal Bend Business Plan Competition is a grassroots effort to support economic growth in the Coastal Bend region. Including Nueces, San Patricio and Kleberg counties. The competition aims to support the best and the brightest entrepreneurial minds in the area. The goal was to inspire these entrepreneurs to start and build their business locally; rewarding the winner with a prize package of valuable services and expertise designed to jumpstart their business.