

Chamber announces business competition

Now is the time for entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs with a great idea for a business to enter the 2012 competition for a chance to win \$15,000 in start-up capital provided by Guardian Bank and a prize package of in-kind services and products donated by members of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce.

Registration Packets for the 2012 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition are now available to download online at www.SEEDS-BusinessResourceCenter.com. The Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition is an initiative by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Valdosta State University's Small Business Development Center and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, to foster new business development that will raise the per capita income and better the quality of life in Lowndes County.

The competition is open to anyone who has an idea for a business that will be

located in Valdosta-Lowndes County that will employ university and/or technical college graduates.

Curt Fowler of Fowler & Company was announced as the 2011 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition winner.

Azalea Health Innovations, Inc. up for national award

Azalea Health Innovations, Inc. of Valdosta is one of 75 companies across the country and one of three companies representing the state of Georgia to be named Blue Ribbon Small Business Award winners by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Winning the Blue Ribbon Small Business Award was the first of three rounds of competition. Seven regional finalists will be announced after voting ends on March 15. The seven finalists will be eligible for the \$10,000 grand prize and DREAM BIG Small Business Award.

AHI won the 2008 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition, and the three partners have been