

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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For Immediate Release

Fowler & Company Wins 2011 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition

Fowler and Company received a check for \$15,000 from Guardian Bank and an assortment of other donated services valued at more than \$20,000 to enhance and expand the company. The prize package was presented to Curt Fowler at the Guardian Bank Business After Hours on Thursday.

Fowler & Company exists to help its clients increase the value of their organizations through a values driven approach to strategic planning, performance improvement and execution coaching. "If you are a business owner or executive who is not satisfied with where your organization is today or where it is heading, we can help. Our founder brings more than 15 years of industry and consulting experience to increase the value of your organization. He has worked with Fortune 500 companies like Verizon and Sara Lee and some of the best local organizations," stated Fowler.

Fowler entered the competition to ensure his company was involved in the community's efforts to support entrepreneurship. Fowler acknowledged the support from the Chamber's SEEDS Business Resource Center and Valdosta State University's Small Business Development Center as a tremendous resource. "If it weren't for this competition, I wouldn't know what great resources our community has for entrepreneurs."

The Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition is an initiative of the Chamber to cultivate new business development in Lowndes County. It is an eight month process that requires businesses to be located in Lowndes County and have the potential to employ technical college and/or university graduates. Competitors are offered educational workshops to assist in developing their business plans.

Fowler encourages all eligible contestants to participate in next year's competition, which will kick off in February. "It is a fun way to build the best business plan you could possibly build. The resources available to you in the competition are paramount and learning and growing with budding entrepreneurs is a blast," stated Fowler. "The competition is totally worth it win or lose."

For more information on Fowler & Company or the Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition contact the Chamber at 229-247-8100.

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Pictured: Ray Chitty (Guardian Bank), Curt Fowler (Fowler & Company), Judge H. McLane (Guardian Bank), Courtney Nelligan (Guardian Bank), Eric Johnson (Guardian Bank) and Larry Colson (Guardian Bank).