



## UEDP Announces the Return of Umpqua Growth Talks Pitch Nights

*Application Process Is Now Open For Small Business Pitch Night January 17, 2024*

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(Roseburg, OR) -- The Umpqua Economic Development Partnership is announcing the return of Umpqua Growth Talks Pitch Nights beginning in 2024. Applications are now being accepted for the first event – a Small Business Pitch Night event January 17, 2024 at Backside Brewing in Roseburg.

Pitch Nights invite entrepreneurs with business ideas and small business owners to pitch their concepts to a panel of judges for prize money intended to help their idea or business grow. The pitches take place in front of a live, supportive audience. Those in attendance also get to cast a vote in favor of their favorite presentation. The first event, Small Business Pitch Night, is open to businesses that have surpassed \$5,000 in revenue.

“People have been asking when Umpqua Growth Talks Pitch Nights were going to return,” said Brian Prawitz, Executive Director of the Umpqua Economic Development Partnership. “It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to prepare for these events in order to do them right. We’re finally ready!”

The first step in the process of pitching a Small Business concept is to apply through [umpquagrowthtalks.com](http://umpquagrowthtalks.com). Six candidates will be selected from the application pool, and be given the opportunity to work with coaches who will help improve the impact of each presentation.

“We want to provide more than just an entertaining show in front of a live audience,” said Prawitz. “We want the entrepreneurs we work with to become better communicators, have a better plan, and succeed.” To that end, the 2024 Pitch Night format will include a networking period, emphasis on successful local entrepreneurs, more information about past winners, and support, encouragement, and direction for people thinking about starting their own business. Dates for Pitch Night events are set for January 17, April 17, July 17, and October 16, 2024.

Since launching in 2019, Umpqua Growth Talks Pitch Nights for Startups and Small Business have become a popular resource for entrepreneurs in the Umpqua Valley looking for education, networking, and support. Backside Brewing will remain as the host for Pitch Night events.

For more information about Pitch Nights, or to apply, visit [www.umpquagrowthtalks.com](http://www.umpquagrowthtalks.com).

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