FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Student Team Bests Competitors to Win $5K in the Rosen College of Hospitality Management Entrepreneurship Competition
Solution for Catering Displays Wins Top Spot

Orlando, FL (April 17, 2017) -- A slip cover to eliminate sloppy catering displays took the top spot in the second Rosen College of Hospitality Management Entrepreneurship Competition held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Slip & Set Event Covers, the brain child of Tyler Dick and Kaitlin Des Jardins, came out on top after five finalists presented their business concepts to a panel of judges, followed by a Q&A, and sequestered deliberations. The pair of entrepreneurs, who work in the catering department at Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park, FL, have already tested their product on the job. They'll receive $5,000 for their business and plan to use the prize money to apply for a more robust patent to protect their product, which they make with pride in the USA.

Slip and Set covers are used to cover dishwasher glass racks, which are used by many catering services as risers to elevate food displays. Typically, caterers will use a folded tablecloth to cover the racks, but the result is lumpy and often wobbles. The covers, with elasticized or drawstring edges, give the racks a neat appearance and can be customized for events and occasions.

"Why didn't I think of this," said Entrepreneurship Competition judge Marco Manzie, founder and president of Paramount Hospitality Group, who has more than 38 years of experience in the hospitality industry. "It's a simple, practical idea, that's really brilliant."

In addition to Manzie, the judges for this year's Entrepreneurship Competition included:

- Megan E. Dowdy, Megan Dowdy Realty, broker/realtor and owner of Lost Caverns Adventure Golf, a Rosen College alumnus
- Gregg Hopkins**,** Chief Sales and Marketing Officer**,** Intelity
- Joni Newkirk**,** Founder and CEO, Integrated Insight

The second prize winner of the Entrepreneurship Competition is Dhark Coco, an online boutique confectionery company, headed by Andra D. Chisholm. The antioxidant-rich dark chocolates featuring unique flavor combinations are hand-made in the Daytona Beach area and shipped nationwide. Chisholm receives a prize of $2,500, which she plans to use to brand her product.

The third prize winner is Family Ranch, an all-inclusive family vacation ranch, which will give a portion of its profits to establishing a permanent home for foster children. The concept was developed by Shane Carman, who will receive $1,000.

The keynote speaker for the Entrepreneurship Competition was David Adelson, founder and president of Intelity. Adelson ignited a revolution in hospitality technology when he brought Intelity's ICE hotel guest interface to market, becoming the first company to allow hotels to offer guest services on guestroom tablets and through guests' own mobile devices.

Funding for the Entrepreneurship Competition prizes was contributed by Patton Hospitality Management and Levy Hospitality; each company gave $5,000. Dennis Levy, who heads up Levy Hospitality, is a 2010 graduate of Rosen College and has supported several entrepreneurship endeavors at his alma mater. Patton Hospitality Management is assisting Rosen College with data for research projects. The Entrepreneurship Competition is founded by BlurtBox, a mobile app that helps customers voice their complaints about a business and allows owners and managers to address customers in real time. The company's CEO is Julien Meyer, '14, a Rosen College alumnus who studied hospitality and event management at UCF while running his own startup company. Meyer approached the College with the idea for the Entrepreneurship Competition as a result of his experiences.

To learn more about the Rosen College of Hospitality Management Entrepreneurship Competition visit http://hospitality.ucf.edu/entrepreneur/ .

About the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management
The UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management located in Orlando, offers students an unrivaled opportunity to learn and work in the heart of hospitality. Ranked in the top five hospitality management programs worldwide, Rosen College has been an educational leader for over 30 years. Uniquely positioned in America's top tourism destination, we educate the next generation of industry leaders through internationally-recognized faculty, innovative academic programs, cutting-edge research and strong industry and community partnerships. To learn more, visit hospitality.ucf.edu.
.