MIAI and TAMPA, FL – May 21, 2018 – The Florida Venture Forum and the Venture Education Foundation announce the three winners of the 8th annual 2018 Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition hosted in conjunction with the 2018 Early Stage Angel Capital Conference, held at the Westshore Grand in Tampa, on May 18, 2018. A total of 11 universities from a cross section of Florida brought their top students to compete for best in the state. The top three winners were:

Joe Sleppy, CEO of Capacitech Energy, representing the University of Central Florida, won the top prize.

The Cable-Capacitor (CSC) technology offers cost saving benefits that are very valuable to manufacturing companies as confirmed in over 200 customer interviews. Their tested and validated value proposition is that the CSC is an affordable and customize-able capacitor that is smaller than traditional capacitors saving space on the PCB and reduces the cost of inventory compared to the alternative of stocking many various capacitors. Economies of scale can be leveraged for capacitors therefore buying larger quantities of a customize-able CSC as a spool wire rather than smaller quantities of several different traditional capacitors creates economic and logistical advantages favoring the CSC. www.capacitechenergy.com

Alainah Hacker, Founder & CEO of Accugentix, representing Florida Gulf Coast University, won first runner-up.

Accugentix is working on a personalized dosing system of CBD oil, which allows for patients to accurately measure, track, and personalize their doses. This system includes a device, called the Dose Dropper, an app, and a cartridge of medicine. They will be starting in the CBD industry, so the cartridges will contain CBD oil. Those cartridges will be inserted into the Dose Dropper device, which automatically calculates and accurately measures a patient’s dose. The device communicates with the app, which tracks the exact amount of CBD oil a patient uses, and it allows patients to view their usage history and help them find their optimal dose. www.accugentix.com

John Wilson, Co-founder & CEO of DiaTech Diabetic Technologies, representing Florida State University, won second place.
DiaTech Diabetic Technologies has developed an innovative approach to create and implement a fluid pressure sensing device that optimizes insulin delivery and alerts patients with diabetes of delivery malfunctions at the injection site. www.diatechdiabetictechnologies.com.

Pat Schneider, Vice President of the Florida Venture Forum commented, “We have been hosting this event for 8 years and each year the quality and preparedness of each competitor gets better and better. Definitely shows an indication of a more advanced understanding of the complexities of successful entrepreneurship.”

“At the Annual Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition, the Forum has created an experiential learning environment for each student to compete, grow and ultimately become successful entrepreneurs. We track their successes and to date our winning competitors have raised over 18 million in investment dollars.”

About The Florida Venture Forum: The Florida Venture Forum is Florida’s largest statewide support organization for investors and entrepreneurs, helping emerging Florida companies connect with sources of capital from across the country. The organization provides programs statewide throughout the year in addition to hosting the Florida Venture Capital Conference, the Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition and the Early Stage Angel Capital Conference. www.flventure.org.

About The Venture Education Foundation: The Venture Education Foundation provides aspiring and current entrepreneurs and growing entrepreneurial companies with educational programs, seminars, tutorials, one-on-one counseling and other programs that teach and hone effective strategies for the creation, growth, and success of entrepreneurial ventures.

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Pictured L to R Pat Schneider, Alainah Hacker, Dr. Sandra Kauanui, Kevin Burgoyne

Pictured L to R Pat Schneider, Nicholas Cooper, John Wilcox, Wendy Plant, Kevin Burgoyne