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County Increases Support for Second Annual Startup Weekend Event

VENTURA, Calif. – The Board of Supervisors voted to increase its support for the upcoming second annual Startup Weekend Ventura County event, to be held April 21-23, 2017. At a February Board meeting, the Board elected to increase their sponsorship of the event from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Startup Weekend Ventura County is an event founded by Dignity Health St. Johns Hospitals, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce and the County of Ventura. It is supported by public and private organizations from across the county. Its mission is to promote, cultivate, support and assist in the launch of technology startups in Ventura County, specifically in the fields of information technology, health care and agriculture.

"With all of the talented, innovative people, and the wonderful educational system and business community we have here, we believed an event like this could galvanize them all to come together to spark amazing innovative concepts and businesses that could be developed right here in our beautiful county," said Mike Powers, County Executive Officer.

For 2017, event organizers have assembled a panel of 12 local CEOs to be judges. They are decision-makers for five technology corporations (Semtech, Meissner Filtration Products, Applied Wireless, Z Power and Advanced Motion Control), three health care organizations (Dignity Health SJRMC, Dignity Health SJPVH and Ventura County Medical Center), three agriculture companies (Limoneira, Reiter Affiliated Companies and Bonipak) and one local government (County of Ventura).

"Startup Weekend brings together entrepreneurs from the target industries, bright engineering minds from surrounding universities and colleges and subject matter experts to address industry challenges and explore innovative solutions," said Powers. "This level of participation and collaboration by all the key stakeholders is unprecedented."

According to Martin Shum, who represents St. John's Hospital on the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is one of the Startup Weekend organizers, one of the significant challenges for a startup is forming their first strategic alliance.

"The Startup Weekend makes it possible for entrepreneurs to present their ideas to the highest level in a company that could be their technology partner, their beta site, their first customer or even their first investor," said Shum. "This makes Startup Weekend an incredible platform for cultivating ideas."

This year's event will be held **April 21-23 at Rancho Campana High School in Camarillo**. Powers will be giving the opening address. For more information or to register for the event, visit:

www.StartupWeekendVenturaCounty.com.

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