Space Coast SCORE to host BizFest small business conference and PitchFest competition in October

MELBOURNE, Fla. – Space Coast SCORE (SpaceCoast.SCORE.org), an all-volunteer nonprofit that provides business assistance, will host **2015 Space Coast BizFest on Tuesday, Oct. 13**, featuring workshops, speed mentoring and a new business competition with a grand prize of $1000.

BizFest is a half-day conference designed to equip local small business owners and emerging entrepreneurs with the tools to succeed. The event kicks off with a buffet lunch at 12 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 8298 N Wickham Rd., and a keynote address by Jerry Ross, the founder of the National Entrepreneur Center in Orlando (formerly the Disney Entrepreneur Center), followed by workshops on marketing, financing, business plan development and strategic planning.

Business experts from Space Coast SCORE and Orlando SCORE will conduct one-on-one mentoring sessions with attendees, providing in-time answers to specific business questions. Qualified SCORE clients are eligible to compete in “PitchFest,” a competition judged by a panel of successful local entrepreneurs and business leaders. Each PitchFest contestant will present their business model, with the top three being awarded cash prizes of $1,000, $500 and $250.

“We’re excited about this year’s lineup of sponsors, presenters, and PitchFest business contestants,” said Carol Wheatley, chair of Space Coast SCORE. “The knowledge available to Brevard’s small business community through workshops, one-on-one counseling, access to funders, and access to both peers and experts will be priceless.”

**Event Details**
- **Who:** Space Coast SCORE
- **What:** 2015 Space Coast BizFest
- **When:** 12 – 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015
- **Where:** Holiday Inn Express, 8298 N Wickham Rd., Melbourne, FL
- **Why:** Promote small business development and link local business owners with resources.
- **Cost:** $15, which includes lunch. RSVP at Bit.ly/SpaceCoastBizFest
- **Sponsors:** The UPS Store; SCORE North Florida District; SCORE South Florida District; Constant Contact; WCN Interactive; Arlene Jacobs Photography; Power in the Workplace Ministries; Four Streams Financial; and Innovative Resource Management.

**About SCORE**
Space Coast SCORE is one of 325 SCORE chapters nationwide. Since 1964, SCORE has assisted more than 10 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners through counseling and business workshops. More than 13,000 volunteer business counselors serve their communities with entrepreneur education dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses. For more information about starting or operating a small business, visit SCORE.org or SpaceCoast.SCORE.org.