

Backgrounder
March 12, 2012

What is the SYPE Volta Award?

The SYPE Volta Award will be awarded to a young business owner showing entrepreneurial excellence. This is the second year for the SYPE Volta Award competition presented by Enterprise Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (SYPE), Rock Bridge Realty and Rawlco Radio. Last year's winner was Kip Simon of 22Fresh who was awarded \$5,000 by Rock Bridge Realty.

Who qualifies?

Nominees for the SYPE Volta Award should demonstrate professionalism, including: integrity, vision, drive, perseverance, and willingness to take risk. An entrepreneur is a person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk for a business venture.

To be eligible for the SYPE Volta Award, a nominee must:

- Be a Saskatchewan resident age 35 or under as of December 31, 2012.
- Be a founding member of the business, or bought into a business, or acquired a business.
- Be a key member of the executive team and have strategic decision making power.
- Operate a Saskatchewan-based business that has demonstrated operating success over a three month period, including sales, profitability, growth prospects, job creation, and market acceptance.
- Demonstrate a level of innovation and/or expansion through products, services, production processes, marketing strategies, or any other aspect of the business.
- Consideration will be given to entrepreneurs who are contributing to his or her community through charitable work, service clubs or through any other leadership or volunteer capabilities, including any previous awards or honours accorded to him or her.
- The contest is open to new and returning applicants. Past winners are excluded from applying unless it is with a new venture.

How to apply:

From March 12 to April 8, eligible candidates enter the competition by submitting an entry on www.facebook.com/SYPEVolta. Applicants are asked to upload a video or photo and provide a description of their company. They are then encouraged to share their entry on Facebook and promote their business. Candidates are also required to complete an official application form and submit it to SYPE.

How are the finalists chosen?

The judges will review the Facebook pitches and the official application forms. Four Volta Award Finalists will be selected by the Silver Spades Selection Committee by April 16. The Selection Committee will be comprised of independent volunteers and sponsors.

To protect confidentiality, the financial information will be scored by a single entity for the purpose of this award only.

Finalists will be notified mid-April. A film student from the University of Regina will shoot a short, professional video submission for each of the finalists to be posted on Facebook and Youtube.

When does the voting begin?

The voting will begin May 14 and will close June 8.

How is the winner picked?

Judging will be weighted 50 per cent Facebook voting and 50 per cent SYPE judging panel. Once the judging has been completed the winner will be announced at the Silver Spades Awards Gala on June 14, 2012.

Where can I go to get more information about entrepreneurship?

www.sype.ca