

Broadcast:

Tease: Hear about the journey to New Venture Challenge from a CMU student after the break

The annual New Ventures Challenge, hosted by the college of business at CMU, is a learning opportunity for many students. However, prior experience is an advantage for Junior Max Grubaugh.

SOT: "I've had all of it go right and all of it go wrong, so I'm feeling good. A lot of people this year are pitching something they've been working on for six months. I've been working on this since 2019, so I'm on five years."

Grubaugh is pitching a pet care facility in Midland, Michigan. He was originally going to veterinarian school when he found his passion for pet care, but during COVID-19, Grubaugh was faced with a tough decision.

SOT: "After my senior year, I had mono and I actually spent a year and a half in the hospital. Stuff like kidney failure and internal bleeding, it was absolutely horrible. I had the option to go to vet school, or I had the option to take what I had studied and change it."

Grubaugh decided to drop out of vet school and come to CMU to pursue business. He says this about his decision to switch.

SOT: "If I can help a thousand animals that's cool, but what if I can help a million? So I transitioned from wanting to go to vet school to let's take these companies down in a manner that brings me up"

You can see Grubaugh's pitch, and many more, at the New Venture Challenge on April 19th in the French Auditorium.

Tease: CMU students give advice for New Venture Challenge competitors after the break.

Hard news:

C-M-U students have been preparing their business pitches for the annual New Venture Challenge in April. Mela Hammond, a sophomore pitching for an all-ages venue in Mount Pleasant, asserts how important these workshops are.

“Come to all of the workshops. I feel like the kids that don’t come to the workshops always expect that they are gonna come in with the same expertise, and resources, and guidance, but it’s just not the same”

These workshops are a collaborative meeting where faculty and business owners can mentor competitors through actual experience. One such mentor, is also a student at CMU. Junior Maxwell Grubaugh, pitching a Midland pet care facility, already has a successful business under his belt. He says this experience has helped him through the New Venture process.

“I’ve had all of it go right and all of it go wrong, so I’m feeling good. A lot of people this year are pitching something they’ve been working on for six months. I’ve been working on this since 2019, so I’m on five years.”

Next week, students will have the chance to practice their ten-minute presentations in front of their peers. Grubaugh leaves people with this advice on pitches.

“”Instead of having a pitch, just talk to the person. Look at each one of your judges, walk from each side of the stage slowly, and kinda just look at them and have a conversation”

The New Venture Challenge preliminaries are on April 2nd, and the final competition is April 19th in the French Auditorium.