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Loudoun Businesses Swim with the Dolphins

 LoudounTimes.com

By Andrew Sharbel, reprinted from the Loudoun Times

Bring it on ABC.

Loudoun County has a new show idea for you. Rather than tear people apart, how about you help them improve their ideas.

John Marshall Bank, AOL and Loudoun County Economic Development sponsored a supportive pitch practice program called Dolphin Tank March 25 at the AOL complex.

A take-off on the popular ABC reality series "Shark Tank," Dolphin Tank allows budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to present their business ideas in front of a panel for judging.

Dolphin Tank provides positive and supportive feedback to the entrepreneur from a panel of industry experts



The panel (from left to right) Amy Millman, president of Springboard; Maria Thomas; Bud Rosenthal, AOL; Donna Harris, 1776; and Chuck Wortman, John Marshall Bank listened to budding entrepreneurs and provided positive feedback March 25 during Loudoun's first Dolphin Tank.

Unlike "Shark Tank," Dolphin Tank provides positive and supportive feedback to the entrepreneur from a panel of industry experts.

Through this program, the entrepreneur is made aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective pitches without shredding their collective psyche.

Dolphin Tank sessions have also been featured at George Washington University, at South by Southwest in Austin and at events in Brazil and India.

Approximately 100 people participated in the first-time event in Loudoun.

Six entrepreneurs presented in front of four panelists including John Marshall Bank's Senior Vice President Chuck Wortman, 1776 Co-Founder Donna Harris, Senior Vice President and General Manager of AOL, Bud Rosenthal and former CEO of Etsy, Maria Thomas.

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