



ENERGIZING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

A Pathway to Prosperity



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Don't miss out on an opportunity to grow the area's business community, *by Sarah Jones*

GRAFTON— The West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WV SBDC) will be offering two Business Fundamental workshops in Grafton on Wednesday, October 18.

Workshops will be offered at two separate times, to allow for more participation. The afternoon session, which will be lead by Todd Crump, will take place from noon until 2:00 p.m., while the evening session will be led by Susannah Higgins from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Both workshops will be held at the All Aboard Grafton Headquarters, located at 121 W. Main Street.



As part of the POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) grant through the West Virginia Community Development HUB, the normally \$35 workshops will be presented to small business owners and entrepreneurs in Grafton, free of charge.

“As we continue work to move forward, these workshops are another great step for the businesses of Grafton,” commented AAG Chairman Tom Hart. “It is time to make Grafton thrive with small businesses once more, and these workshops can help point us in the right direction.”

The fundamental workshops will cover what entrepreneurs need to know in order to get their small business up and running in West Virginia. That includes covering all the practical basics, such as obtaining a business license, identifying the market and writing a business plan that can build credibility with potential lenders.

In addition, the workshops are part of the WV SBDC's training and business coaching program, Three Step Jump Start.



Three Step Jump Start is a program that helps current small business owners receive the right information at the right time. The three steps of the program include watching the Three Step Jump Start video online at www.wvsbdc.com, attending a Business Fundamentals workshop and scheduling a meeting with a WV SBDC business coach.

Business coaches with the WV SBDC are highly skilled individuals who have professional certifications, which range from exporting, innovation, technology, and economic development, to finance, management, marketing and entrepreneurship.

Serving businesses with fewer than 500 employees, including new ventures, growing companies and mature businesses, the WV SBDC is committed to making your business their passion.

According to the WV SBDC, the programs offered provide expert guidance to help small businesses not only get started, but to succeed, as well as share their values of teamwork, integrity, communication, trust and accountability.

“The WV SBDC is a great way to get the help you need in order to lay a solid foundation to build a successful small business,” voiced Hart.

Although the WV SBDC does not provide direct funding, they do offer financial resource connection, and can help companies be aware of and prepare for capital access opportunities.

To register for the afternoon workshop, contact business coach Todd Crump at 304-333-6751, or email to todd.d.crump@wv.gov. Those wishing to take part in the evening session may call business coach Susannah Higgins at 304-472-1757, or email Susannah.V.higgins@wv.gov. Online registration is also available by visiting www.wvsbdc.com, and clicking on “training calendar.”

“As a small business owner myself, I am very thankful that we were chosen to receive these workshops free of charge. I hope we have others ready to take advantage of yet another great opportunity to assist in the growth of our community,” expressed Hart.

