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BirminghamBusiness Resource Center

Your One-Stop Center for Small Business Finance

trust our experience
to grow your business



January 2008

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Small Business Creates America's Jobs



Small businesses continued to create America's new jobs in 2004, according to the latest data. The updated U.S. Small Business Profile released by the Office of Advocacy in October shows that small businesses added 1.9 million net new jobs during the latest year studied. "Small businesses are America's job-creating dynamo," said Chad Moutray, Chief Economist for the Office of Advocacy. "Clearly policymakers need to consider their impact on small businesses when they are making policy decisions." The updated profile also shows that in 2006, the nation had an estimated 26.8 million small businesses, of which 6.1 million were employer firms. According to the latest data from 2002, the United States had 1.1 million Asian-owned firms, 1.2 million African American-owned firms, 1.6 million Hispanic-owned firms, 201,400 Native American-owned firms, and 28,900 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned firms. For more information on Small Business Profiles for the States and Territories, contact Victoria. williams@sba.gov. (Printed by permission from the SBA Office of Advocacy - The Small Business Advocate - Advocacy: The Voice of Small Business in Government, Vol. 26, No. 1, November 2007)

BBRC Director Bob Dickerson serves as panelist at RainbowPUSH Peachtree Project

Resource Center Executive Director Bob Dickerson served as a panelist on the RainbowPUSH Peachtree Economic Empowerment Conference last month in Atlanta, Georgia. Dickerson appeared with several presenters who commented on the lack of access to capital for historically underutilized



FastTrac® Entrepreneurial classes offered through BBRC



Classes are in full swing as the Resource Center and the Central Alabama Women's Business Center co-sponsor a series of FastTrac New Venture classes being delivered to women entrepreneurs as part of the two organization's Financial Literacy Program. FastTrac is a very practical, hands-on business development program designed to help entrepreneurs hone the skills needed to create, manage and grow a successful business.

"Participants don't just learn about business - they live it". This particular program allows students to work on their own business ideas throughout the course, moving their ventures to reality or new levels of growth. Program topics include subjects such as "Being Your Own Boss", "Money Smart", "Borrowing Basics" and "Money Matters" and

business enterprises and offered recommendations to alleviate this condition. Founded in 1984 by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., the RainbowPUSH Coalition is a progressive organization fighting for social change. PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) convenes several economic empowerment conferences annually including the Wall Street Project held in New York and the Peachtree Project held in Atlanta. Janice Mathis, General Counsel to the RainbowPUSH Coalition coordinates both conferences and will also serve as a presenter at the upcoming A.G. Gaston Conference scheduled for February 2008 here in Birmingham, Alabama.

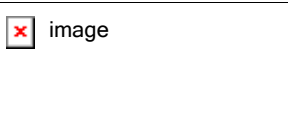


Resource Center hosts ServisFirst Bank and Compass Bank Young Executive Board



The Birmingham Business Resource Center recently hosted representatives of ServisFirst Bank and the 2007 Young Executive Board of Compass Bank at Innovation Depot. The groups were given a brief presentation by BBRC Director Bob Dickerson who introduced commercial bankers and business professionals to the programs offered by BBRC which might assist their small business clients. Attendees also heard from Susan Matlock, President of Innovation Depot, who briefed them on the company's newly

renovated business incubation facility located in the heart of downtown Birmingham. As business resource partners, BBRC and Innovation Depot work continuously to provide valuable programs and resources that address the needs of a growing business community. To find out about upcoming business seminars sponsored by the Resource Center call 205.250.6380.



conclude with FastTrac New Venture that focuses on how to turn entrepreneurial dreams into reality.

Classes are being conducted over a 12- week period on Tuesday evenings from 6pm - 8pm at Innovation Depot, the City of Birmingham's business incubator. For more information on the next FastTrac series of classes contact **205.250.6380**

Quick Links...

[BBRC Website](#)

[City of Birmingham](#)

[FastTrac Website](#)

Join our mailing list!

BBRC hosts Banker's Fair at Innovation Depot

The Birmingham Business Resource Center is hosting a Bankers Fair on Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 2pm - 5pm for the tenants of Innovation Depot. This event is kicking off a quarterly marketing initiative



designed to introduce tenants to lending professionals and business bankers who can assist them with financing for their enterprises. Representatives from various financial institutions will set up booths and be on hand to speak with clients about loan resources available for various commercial projects. Innovation Depot is a business incubation program and facility that focuses on emerging biotechnology and life sciences, information technology and service businesses. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Lisa Cooper at 205.250.6380.

SAVE THE DATE! - 2008 A.G. GASTON CONFERENCE SLATED FOR FEBRUARY

Final plans are being made for the Fourth Annual A.G. Gaston Conference hosted by the Birmingham Business Resource Center and Advanced Planning Services.



The 2008 conference

will be held February 19th and 20th at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. This year's theme "The Economic Impact of Small Businesses on Local Communities" will feature Keynote Speaker Reverend Dr. Floyd Flake, former U.S. Congressman, Senior Pastor of Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York and President of Wilberforce University in Ohio. Flake is a proponent of economic development and has established several initiatives that assist in the revitalization of urban commercial communities. Michael V. Roberts, Chairman and CEO of The Roberts Companies, a multi-national development consortium based in St. Louis, Missouri will return to this year's conference. Roberts recently signed an agreement with the City of Birmingham to redevelop the historic A.G. Gaston Motel, located in the Civil Rights District. Conference workshops will be informative as well as empowering and the event will provide numerous networking opportunities for those who wish to grow and expand small business enterprises. For more information on the conference call 205.250.6380 or visit www.a.ggastonexpo.com.



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