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# Economic Development Review

[www.cbchambercoalition.com](http://www.cbchambercoalition.com)

## March 2010

*A partnership between Benton County, the City of Corvallis and the business community focused on enabling traded sector companies to start, move and grow in the region.*

### Highlights:

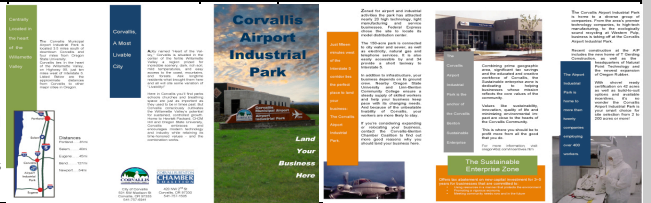
- AIP Marketing
- Enterprise Zone Expansion
- Oregon Business Council Mtgs
- Regional Outreach
- Angel Oregon
- The Final Food Biz Bootcamp
- Business Consulting

#### 5-Year Goal:

- 100 businesses with 10 employees each
- 10 businesses with 100 employees each

**The Corvallis Airport Industrial Park** - As part of the effort to fill the AIP with the sort of jobs that will move the Corvallis and Benton County Economy forward, the Airport Commission has been eager to have their own marketing piece. A trifold designed specifically to highlight the amenities and availability of industrial land at the AIP.

Heretofore the AIP has been lumped with the Enterprise Zone in a joint marketing component which has served well. With the planned expansion of the Enterprise Zone, the need for a single piece was addressed by the Chamber Coalition in accordance with the contract held to manage the AIP and its marketing. The trifold is produced in-house and is able to be produced in small numbers so changes can be made as events warrant.



#### Update:

**Enterprise Zone Expansion** - The City of Corvallis and Benton County held a joint meeting to explore expansion of the existing Enterprise Zone on March 20, 2010. Initially the Chamber Coalition was asked to propose two sites for inclusion: Sunset Research Park and Hewlett Packard. At the meeting the scope was expanded to consider all industrial land in Benton County. The Chamber Coalition has provided a report showing which U.S. census blocks meet the same poverty test used to establish the initial zone. Eighteen (18) block groups were identified. Next, the City and County will hold separate meetings to consider the information and decide whether or not to move forward with the expansion.

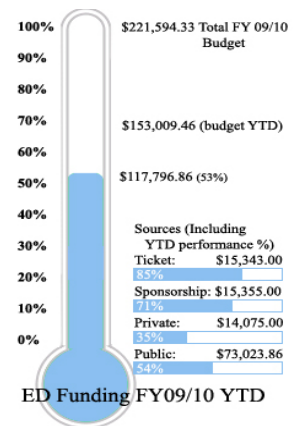
**Oregon Business Council Meetings** - The Oregon Business Council is planning regional meetings to connect the local communities to the larger state conversation about the Oregon Business Plan. The Chamber is committed to supporting and enhancing that conversation to connect local entrepreneurial efforts into the larger state planning.

**Regional Outreach** - One of the key steps in the Corvallis Business Ecosystem is outreach. A regional approach to Economic Development includes outreach outside of Benton County, work on the Willamette Angel Conference in Eugene, and involvement in coordinating the Seattle Startup Weekend

**Angel Oregon / Willamette Angel Conference Prep:** Angel Oregon took place early March 5th, with several quality companies engaging in the funding process. Many of those companies are among those who have applied to the Willamette Angel Conference. The Willamette Angels met to make their first cut of the applicants on the evening of March 31, 2010. There are 27 investors thus far in forming the LLC and 32 applicant companies for the funding prize of \$135,000. The Due Dilligence process is moving along very well for the May 13th Willamette Angel Conference.

**Food Biz Bootcamp:** The Final Food Biz Bootcamp was held March 26 & 27. Even with the coincidence of spring break the classes had near full attendance. Participants provided a lot of positive feedback an interest in meeting monthly to help each other continue work on their food businesses. This sort of cluster development highlights the importance of the outreach and networking components of a Businesse Bootcamp. Participants are exposed to more than raw data from lecturers. Connections are made which drive forward whole sectors of business activity. From growers to processors to restaurants and retailers, everyone in the area food industry expanded their knowledge, contact base and understanding of the reach their business has in the region.

**Consulting:** The Chamber Coalition provides free, confidential consultation to businesses ranging from startups to established community stalwarts looking to stay competitive and ahead of the curve. The Chamber Coalition's Economic Development Director engaged 14 significant case companies and individuals over the course of the month of February. Each session resulted in significant shift for the client towards reaching business goals increasing community wealth.



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