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Economic Development Review

www.cbchambercoalition.com

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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:

- Startup Weekend
- Food Biz Trial Run
- Solar Business Conference
- Second EZ Application
- SWOT Process
- Business Consulting

5-Year Goal:

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

Startup Weekend was a success! The event, hosted by the Chamber Coalition at Belle Vallee Cellars was ground zero for the formation of seven teams comprised of thirty-eight local professionals and finally, after the entire weekend without sleep, (for some), three viable companies including the winner, SherpaDash.

The event also included speakers addressing a number of issues including Ravi Sinha of Choice Solar who led attendees to a better understanding of how to identify problems and find solutions. On day two, Steven Davis covered a variety of topics relating to the legal side of startups.



The Corvallis Benton Chamber Coalition coordinated the Corvallis Startup Weekend December 4-6, and drew 38 people to the event. John Sechrest moderated, putting a full week of work into 3 days. He pushed and prodded web, finance, investment, marketing and engineering professionals to bring together the talent required to build these successes in the most intense of formats.

Update:

Food Biz BootCamp has taken shape with a full schedule formed complete with lecture and workshops slated for attendees. A second sample project has been undertaken consisting of a batch of 100% organic and local granola cereal made at the OSU food science building with the sort of commercial grade baking equipment a local food processing plant would need to have to be competitive. Among those testing the recipe and process were representatives from the Ten Rivers Food Web, Willamette Neighborhood Housing, and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

The workshop is booked up for both attendees and a full complement of speakers whose expertise ranges from farming to food processing to packaging and marketing local foods. The assembled experts are familiar with the problems facing burgeoning food entrepreneurs in the local food market and will help define the pathway to the sort of local sustainable food production that helps create jobs and provide healthy food for the community.

Solar Business Conference: The City of Hillsborough, Solar World, Oregon Business (formerly the OECD), and CH2MHill provided tours of the Solar World facility in Hillsborough and discussed how Solar manufacturing effects local, statewide and national economies, the future of solar manufacturing and recruiting solar manufacturing to Oregon. Hillsborough has been very successful attracting alternative energy manufacturing and was kind enough to share their experience and expertise.

Benton Corvallis Sustainable Enterprise Zone: The enterprise zone has seen a second application for inclusion, this time from Natural Point. The Company specializes in the design, manufacture, and sales of high performance optical tracking systems, motion capture based video gaming inputs, and Hands Free Ergonomic mouse Alternatives. NaturalPoint was founded in 1997 and continues to make inroads in gaming and launched Track IR worldwide in mid 2009. John Sechrest was know to the company having had contact with them in the past. Natural Point made contact with the Chamber after reading of the Enterprise zone in the Gazette Times.

SWOT Old Creek, a wall bed manufacturer, presented their business plan and corporate vision to a team of investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and established professionals for a candid assesment of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats the company faces as they seek to flourish here in Corvallis.

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 met with over 17 companies over the course of the holiday shortened month of December. Each session resulted in significant shift for the client.

Partners Engaged:

- Business Enterprise Center
- Eugene Chamber of Commerce
- Linn-Benton Community College
- OECD
- Oregon State University
- Ten Rivers Food Web
- Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services
- Corvallis Airport Commission
- Benton County
- City of Corvallis
- SAO Corvallis
- EVP Prosperity that fits
EVP 12.2, EVP 14.1
- City Club Program Committee
- Oregon Entrepreneur's Network
- SmartUps

This Work Made Possible By The Following Partners:



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