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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:

- Natural Point EZ Application approved
- SWOT: 3
- Recruiting Site Visit
- New Industrial Land Web Site
- Business Consulting

5-Year Goal:

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

Natural Point EZ Application Approved

The tech manufacturing firm has three markets and three uses for their technology, an infrared tracking sensor. The gaming world is already taking note of the advances and has incorporated Track IR into several leading titles.

Natural Point is moving to Benton County, consolidating 11 small locations into one new building within the Sustainable Enterprise Zone. Their application has been approved by the City and the County and funding has been secured. They are moving forward with construction of the new building in the Willamette Business Park. The company cites the creation of the Sustainable Enterprise Zone as a chief reason for moving to Benton County.



Update:

SWOT: Three Companies made presentations in February for SWOT panel reviews. Management teams from each company presented their business plans to a panel of professionals, investors and executives in preparation for major acceleration opportunities. Businesses included Farmland LP, Shop Dragon and Vizme. All are in the process of preparing for competition in the Willamette Angel Conference taking place in Eugene on May 8. Among its other attributes, the SWOT process has been helping businesses prepare for funding opportunities and helping new business focus their attention on strategic growth, preparations for a funding event and securing leadership and advisors.

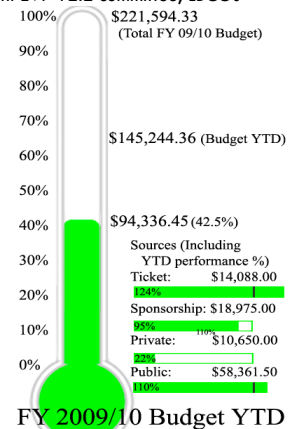
Food Biz Bootcamp February 26 & 27 was the second weekend (22 hours of speakers in two days) of this sold out class. Speakers included Bill Chambers from Stahlbush Island Farms, The Oregon Department of Agriculture inspector, County Health Inspector and Paul Fuller from Sweet Creek. The class projects included producing Marinara Sauce, Granola and Havarti Cheese. The Food Biz Bootcamp is the result of collaboration of a number of partners including the Ten Rivers Food Web, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, local farmers and the Oregon State University Food Sciences department EVP 12.2 committee, LBCC's Small Business Development Center, Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services and Oregon Natural Step Network

Recruiting: The Hewlett Packard Campus was put forward for a Business Oregon-generated recruiting lead, along with the Nypro building in the Sunset Research park, as a potential location for Project Domus, a company looking to create 600 family wage jobs with all hiring done locally. They are an insurance customer service center and were specifically asking for more information on Corvallis workforce availability. Their site selection team visited in February with Business Oregon, the Corvallis Benton Chamber Coalition and a meeting with a workforce analyst from the Oregon Department of Employment.

Recruitment opportunity: Industrial lands and vacant lab space is very valuable in the industrial recruitment world. Led by the Oregon Bioscience Association, several municipalities including Corvallis are collaborating on a new website to specifically put these specialty listings in one place so businesses with specific needs can see available properties with confirmed amenities. The Chamber Coalition has been partnering on the project to establish the site's listings and helping create the database of these properties.

The Web Site is scheduled to go live in April 2010 and should be an invaluable tool for attracting scientific and technology sector businesses to the area.

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 had 21 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 that may create high level wealth generation for the Community.



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