

## Keynotes for Economic Opportunity July 2009



**INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION**

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### Workshops & Conferences

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#### **Destination 2025: Help Shape the Future of Central Minnesota's Bioscience Industry!**

*Tuesday, August 4, 2009*

*St. John's University - the Quadrangle, Collegeville, MN*

Destination 2025 is a proactive approach to further develop bioscience industries, businesses and jobs in central Minnesota. The project is a partnership between [The Science Initiative of Central Minnesota](#) (a program of the St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership) and [The BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota](#) and is a true collaboration between the public, academic and private sectors.

It will be looking across these three sectors while also looking at the convergence of six markets to identify strategies to develop the community in central Minnesota over the next 20 years. This session will focus on three of those markets: Food and Animal Health, Medical Devices and Pharma-Biologics.

Cost of \$15 for a half-day session without lunch or \$25 for a half-day or full-day session with lunch. Register by July 29<sup>th</sup> by contacting Kylie Wojahn at (320) 656-3801 or [k.wojahn@scapartnership.com](mailto:k.wojahn@scapartnership.com).

For more information about Destination 2025 visit: <http://biobusinessalliance.org/destination>.

#### **Building Excellence through Strategic Thinking**

##### **Breakfast With the B.E.S.T.**

*Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*Registration 7:00AM - 7:30AM and Breakfast 7:30AM - 8:30AM*

*Minnesota WorkForce Center: St. Cloud Technical College, St. Cloud*

Breakfast With the B.E.S.T. is a monthly training series presented by Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council in partnership with Stearns-Benton Workforce Council.

- Topic: On Boarding
- Presenter: *OC Tanner*

Cost is \$25 per session

Register by calling Rosie Beager at 320.308.5701 or email at [admissions@workforceu.com](mailto:admissions@workforceu.com)

Further Information can be found at: [http://www.workforceu.com/pdfs/breakfast\\_with\\_the\\_best.pdf](http://www.workforceu.com/pdfs/breakfast_with_the_best.pdf)

#### **DEED Summer Road Show**

*Monday, August 17, 1:00-4:00P.M.*

*St. Cloud, St. Cloud Public Library*

*Thursday, August 27, 1:00-4:00P.M.  
Brainerd, Central Lakes College*

The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Commissioner Dan McElroy and other agency leaders will be going on a road tour this summer and will be stopping in 10 cities across Minnesota. In central Minnesota the stops are St. Cloud and Brainerd. This event will be targeted at economic developers, workforce development professionals, educators, local governments, business leaders and legislators. The theme of this road tour is "Advancing Economic Prosperity: Partnering to Shape our Future." At each stop the following will be discussed:

- The economy.
- How the recent legislative session affects workforce and economic development.
- How federal stimulus dollars will be spent in Minnesota.

There will also be breakout sessions and a resource fair.

For more information visit:

<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/news/release/2009/bus09Jul09roadshow09.htm>

### **Foundations Forums: Foundations of Strategy**

*September 14-16, 2009*

*Anderson Center*

The Foundations Forums provide business professionals with an in-depth understanding of the functional building blocks used to build a successful organization. The Foundations Forums are natural extensions to the Managers' Forum.

The Foundations of Strategy Forum prepares organizations to build and sustain competitive advantages. In this forum participants will:

- Examine the concept of strategy as an integrated set of activities that position a firm within an industry for superior returns.
- Evaluate factors that influence their company's ability to sustain competitive advantage.
- Assess the structural attractiveness of their industry; identify both the threats and the enablers that impact profitability.
- Determine the competitive environment as well as their organization's strengths and weaknesses.
- Learn the tools to develop a consistent and workable business strategy for their company.
- Understand how their value proposition is a key component of strategy, including value creation, value desired and value captured.

For further information and program cost visit: [http://www.acmbd.org/foundation\\_series.htm](http://www.acmbd.org/foundation_series.htm).

### **Emerging Companies Forum**

*2010*

*Anderson Center*

The Anderson Center is now accepting applications for the Emerging Companies Forum. This forum is designed to help emerging companies better position themselves for the future. The Emerging Companies Forum is targeted towards Entrepreneurs, Business Owners, General Managers, or Executive teams who are interested in surrounding themselves with an Advisory Board of experienced individuals. Program objectives include:

- Provide access to a group of experienced individuals who are interested and willing to share their advice and experiences in a formal setting.
- Provide candid feedback that challenges the business owner's assumptions, with a goal of helping the owner improve business planning and execution.
- Provide an informal mentoring relationship that extends beyond the Forum to help the business owner facilitate future growth.

For more information visit: [http://www.acmbd.org/emerging\\_companies.htm](http://www.acmbd.org/emerging_companies.htm).

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## Resources

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### **Request for Assistance** *(Deadline 8/31/09)*

The EDA Center's new "Request for Assistance" for projects beginning in 2010 is now online at [www.umcedacenter.org](http://www.umcedacenter.org). This Request for Assistance (RFA) is designed to solicit requests from community, county and regional economic development agencies seeking direct technical assistance to support their economic development activities.

The EDA Center does not specifically define the types of assistance that economic development agencies may need. Accordingly, the EDA Center will accept and review all requests for assistance from eligible applicants. However, there are some core competencies of the University that may help guide such requests. These include: market research; technology studies; workforce development studies & support; economic impact analysis; student-supported projects and internships; product development assistance; strategic planning services; statistical studies; technology deployment planning; and support of entrepreneurial program development. Due to the constraints of EDA funding, project time lines should be 1-year or less.

Remember that eligible applicants must be municipal, county, tribal or regional economic development agencies.

Please contact Jack Geller at University of Minnesota, Crookston for more information. Phone: (218) 281-8248. Email: [geller@umn.edu](mailto:geller@umn.edu).

### **Grant Opportunity For Small Businesses**

This Small Business Catalyst Award funding opportunity invites grant applications from small business concerns that propose to accelerate innovation through high risk, high reward research and development that has commercial potential and is relevant to the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Small Business Catalyst Award is expected to support entrepreneurs of exceptional creativity, drawn from scientific and technological environments beyond NIH, who propose pioneering and possibly transformative approaches to addressing major biomedical or behavioral challenges with the potential for downstream commercial development.

For more information visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-009.html>

### ***"Southern, Central Regions Show a Patchwork of Distress"***

MinnPost covers the economic recession in greater Minnesota in this article, part two of a three part series. This installment focuses on Southern and Central Minnesota and features quotes from Randy

Olson, the Initiative Foundation's vice president for economic opportunity. For more information visit: [http://www.minnpost.com/stories/2009/07/08/10078/southern\\_central\\_regions\\_show\\_a\\_patchwork\\_of\\_distress](http://www.minnpost.com/stories/2009/07/08/10078/southern_central_regions_show_a_patchwork_of_distress)

## **University of Minnesota Offers Free Disaster Planning Trainings**

What issues do businesses face when planning for disasters?

Two free training modules are currently being offered through the U of M's School of Public Health's Center for Public Health Preparedness. One 45 minute module will orient learners to the basics of business continuity planning, including an introduction to the eight pieces necessary for formulating a plan for disasters and emergencies. The other 60 minute module will give the learner first-hand knowledge about how employers work with their employees during disasters.

For more information call 800-493-2060 or visit: <http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu>.

### **Further Resources**

Further resources can be found at the Initiative Foundation Website (<https://www.ifound.org>) by clicking on "Businesses" and then clicking on the tab under this category called "Additional Resources", or by following this link: [http://www.ifound.org/business\\_resources.php](http://www.ifound.org/business_resources.php).

### **A Small Business Resource Guide**

This guide is available in the Spring 2007 issue of *IQ magazine*. This can be found at <http://www.iqmag.org>. From the drop down menu "browse an issue" select the "You, Incorporated" issue. The Resource Guide is on page 32-34.

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*This newsletter is designed to share resources and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other economic development opportunities, contact [Randy Olson](#), Vice President for Economic Opportunity.*

*If you wish to be removed, update your email address or change your subscription preferences please contact Sharon at [sgottwalt@ifound.org](mailto:sgottwalt@ifound.org).*