

Keynotes for Economic Opportunity March 2009



INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Workshops & Conferences

Building Excellence through Strategic Thinking

Breakfast With the B.E.S.T.

Wednesday, March 11

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

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

- Topic: "Does IT Matter: The Corrosion of Competitive Advantage"
- Presenter: Scott Warzecha, CEO, Netgain

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.

Cost is \$25 per session.

Register by calling Rosie Beager at 320.308.5701 or email at admissions@workforceu.com.

For more information visit: www.workforceu.com.

Integrating “Lean” into Your Environmental Initiatives

Tuesday, March 10

8:45AM – 12:00PM

Minnesota Waste Wise, 400 Robert Street North, Suite 1500, St. Paul, MN

Learn how “Lean” can be incorporated into your sustainable business practices to save money, eliminate waste and conserve resources.

Cost for members: \$40 members, \$60 non-members,

To register or for more information visit: www.mnwastewise.org,

Or contact Jill Curran at (651) 292-4653 or jcurran@mnchamber.com.

Using Green to Grow Your Business

Wednesday, March 18

8:00 - 11:30AM

Comcast, Minnetonka, MN

Sponsored by Enterprise Minnesota, this event is designed to educate Minnesota business decision makers about the latest innovations in Lean Enterprise.

To register or for more information visit: www.regonline.com.

The Minnesota Management Institute (MMI)

Week 1: March 22–27: Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska, MN

Week 2: April 19–24: Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska, MN

Week 3: May 17–22: Carlson School of Management, Minneapolis, MN

The Minnesota Management Institute (MMI) is an alternative to a traditional MBA degree, the MMI program gives participants a basic understanding of the entire scope of the business enterprise in today's emerging economic environment. MMI takes place during one week a month over the course of three months. The March and April sessions are held at Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska, MN. The May session takes place at Carlson School of Management on the West Bank campus of the University of Minnesota. You have the option of taking a Pre-Finance course at the Carlson School prior to the start the program. This course is recommended for anyone without a substantial finance background.

This program is designed for high-potential managers who seek a solid business education and an experience that will dramatically accelerate their development. Participants hold titles such as: Director, Functional Area Manager, Product Manager, Project Manager or Controller.

For more information visit: www.carlsonschool.umn.edu.

Managers' Forum

April 13-17

St. Cloud, MN

The Managers' Forum is designed to equip management and business professionals with enhanced decision-making and management skills by exposing them to essential management topics that serve them in their daily work challenges. The one-week forum is targeted towards companies with a multi-member "middle management" team and middle - to high-level managers including: vice presidents, directors, and managers.

For more information visit: www.acmbd.org.

Initiative Awards: Join 500 VIPs for a Starry Night

Friday, April 17

St. Cloud Civic Center

Let the foundation be your celestial guide as we unlock the mystery of the stars at our 2009 Initiative Awards: *A Constellation of Community Service*. Join us as we honor six of central Minnesota's most brilliant leaders and organizations. (HINT: One of those is an "Outstanding Enterprise" from Baxter!) Who is it? [Click here](#) to find out and sign up.

Finance for Non-Financial Managers

April 20–23

Carlson School of Management, Minneapolis, MN

The goal of the Finance for Non-Financial Managers program is to provide managers and decision-makers who do not possess a strong grounding in finance an understanding of their firm's financial paradigm. Participants will gain a detailed understanding of critical financial fundamentals and will, as a result, be able to communicate with financial practitioners with more confidence.

Upon completion of this program, participants will understand how finance professionals analyze and evaluate financial decisions, and will possess a real understanding of how they can contribute to the creation of significant shareholder value. This program serves as an introduction for those managers and executives who have had little or no education or work experience in the field of finance. It has also been designed for those who need to understand the pivotal role finance plays within their organization.

For more information visit: www.carlsonschool.umn.edu.

Leadership Through Quality: Strategy and Execution

April 21-23

May 12-14

June 16-18

Carlson School of Management, Minneapolis, MN

This program helps leaders develop the deep, integrated, strategic knowledge needed to build and sustain a quality advantage. Participants will be encouraged to act at the outer edge of their responsibilities in order to maximize progress within their organizations.

At the end of the course, participants will have developed an improvement plan that is informed by leading-edge knowledge taught by top instructors, best practices shared by guest speakers from leading quality organizations, site visits at local companies, and interactions with attendees from a variety of industries.

For more information visit: www.carlsonschool.umn.edu.

Business and Workforce Development Conference

April 29

Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley, MN

Presented by Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Business Development Program, East Central Minnesota Shared Prosperity Alliance, East Central Minnesota Workforce Partnership, and Northern Technology Initiative.

Keynote speakers include Mike Kiefer, author of "The Powermind System: Twelve Lessons on the Psychology of Success" and Ginger Glenn, from Glenn Metalcraft.

For more Information call Pam at (320)-384-4645.

Owner-President Forum – Cohort 3, Week 1

November 15-20

St. Cloud, MN

Presented by Anderson Center, providing management and business development services that

facilitate economic progress in Greater Minnesota, the Owner-President Forum's primary goal is to increase the effectiveness of business leaders.

The Forum is designed for a diverse group of business leaders within organizations. The ideal participant is the business owner, entrepreneur and founder, president or executive vice president of the organization. The Owner-President Forum is an eighteen-month education process that will change the way you think. The program is fast paced, highly interactive and concentrated. Within the eighteen months there are three one-week educational sessions. Each one-week session is a full-time commitment and will concentrate on specific business topics related to the Survival, Growth and Expansion stages of business.

For more information and program cost please visit: www.acmbd.org.

Featured Program

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAA), a federal program, provides financial assistance to manufacturers affected by import competition. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this cost sharing federal assistance program pays for half the cost of consultants or industry-specific experts for projects that improve a manufacturer's competitiveness.

If you are a manufacturer that can demonstrate impact by imports, this program can offer up to \$75,000 in third party technical assistance to improve a company's competitive position. The Midwest TAA contact is Applied Strategies International, Ltd. in Chicago.

For more information visit: www.taacenters.org or call (800) 333-2148.

Things to Know

Day at the Capitol

Minnesota Business Day at the Capitol provides Minnesota companies with the opportunity to see the Legislature in action and to influence public policy decisions. Over 800 business leaders gather for a day of education and lobbying at the Capitol.

March 18th, 2009

Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront, 11 East Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN

More information is available at: www.mnchamber.com.

Resources

Business Owner's ToolKit: Total Know-How for Small Business

With an emphasis on problem-solving dating back to 1995, Business Owner's Toolkit™ offers more than 5,000 pages of FREE cost-cutting tips, step-by-step checklists, real-life case studies, startup advice, and business templates to small business owners and entrepreneurs. The site also offers a monthly newsletter, up-to-date news topics, and Ask Alice!, a column that closely follows industry trends and provides trusted advice to inquiring site visitors.

Toolkit's small business Total Know-How is based on the publishing assets of CCH, Incorporated, a Wolters Kluwer business. Since 1913, America's lawyers, accountants, business consultants and regulatory advisors have relied upon the research libraries and software solutions of the country's #1 legal, tax and business publisher to run their professional practices. Now, Toolkit has taken these powerful CCH resources and produced a web site of useful advice and tools geared specifically to the

small business owner. To the small business owner who would use this site, there is absolutely no cost for accessing the information or other member services.

More information on the Business Owner's ToolKit can be found at: www.toolkit.com.

Further Resources

Check out the Initiative Foundation's list of business resources - it's chalk full of great information and sources for helpful hints and tips as you create and maintain a successful business. Find the list at: 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 www.iqmag.org. From the drop down menu "browse an issue" select the "You, Incorporated" issue. The Resource Guide is on pages 32-34.

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](mailto: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.