

Entrepreneurial Happenings

Haywood Community College

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Editor: Jean James

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Entrepreneurs are those who see opportunities that others do not and marshal the resources to capitalize on them.

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING TEAM

Sharron Bleyl
Gary Clontz
Dave Dudek
David Forester
Janice Gilliam
Tim Haynes
Jean James
Hal Lander
Greg Rutherford
Patricia Smith
Jeff Webb

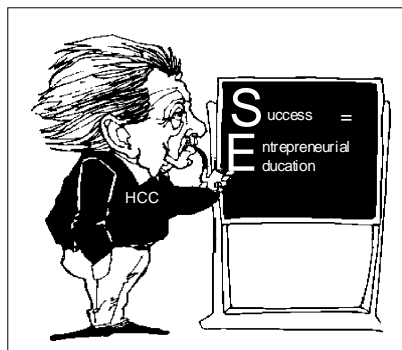
Small Business Center Recognized for Excellence

The Small Business Center at Haywood Community College received an Excellent Small Business Center Award at the State Board of Community Colleges' meeting in Raleigh recently.

HCC's Small Business Center was honored for its exemplary contributions to the small business community and for the innovative way it serves special populations. Only two other small business centers in the state received awards of excellence. State Board Chairman Dr. G. Herman Porter praised the small business center for its contribution to the local economy.

"We are extremely proud of the work done at our 58 small business centers. The directors are unsung heroes," said Scott Ralls, vice president for economic and workforce development at the North Carolina Community College System. "They are a direct link to the heart of the community and over the years have provided

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HCC Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Kimberly Turner, second-year student in professional crafts, has been selected as the recipient of the \$1,000 HCC Entrepreneurial Scholarship for the 2000-2001 academic year. This annual scholarship is sponsored by the HCC Foundation.

Kimberly says she is grateful for this scholarship and that it has been a tremendous help to her. She hopes to be working out of her home workshop weaving and marketing cloth to local businesses and at arts and crafts fairs. She enjoys demonstrating her craft in schools, community centers, and libraries.

Congratulations to Kimberly!



Martha Sawyer, Owner
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Waynesville, NC 28786
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Have out-of-town guests and looking for a clean, affordable place to accommodate them? Garden Breeze Motel opened its doors on January 12, 2001. The motel has 11 rooms for rent, and four of those have kitchenettes. Owner Martha Sawyer will continue offering real-estate services from this location, building upon a 5-year history in Haywood County. Over the years, she has taken advantage of many continuing education computer classes from beginning Windows to Publisher to website design. She's also been a faithful attendee at small business seminars over the past two years, improving her skills with record keeping and taxes, marketing, and overall business planning. Martha says, "Taking advantage of small business workshops helped me search more diligently for the **right** business. I had explored a variety of possibilities, but these programs gave me insight to evaluate my own situation, determine what cash flow was necessary and what best suited my needs." Garden Breeze Motel will be able to capitalize on her love for gardening by enhancing the overall atmosphere of Garden Breeze. Look for fresh flowers in each room in the spring!

SBC Recognized for Excellence

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invaluable services to thousands of prospective entrepreneurs, one business at a time. They help business owners avoid possible pitfalls and show them how to succeed.”

HCC’s Small Business Center received the western regional award, a plaque, and \$500. Small Business Center Advisory Committee Chairman Scott Bauer was on hand to congratulate all of the winners. Bauer is also president of Southern Community Bank and Trust. His bank, along with the North Carolina Bankers’ Association, contributed funds for cash awards. Thad Woodard, president of the North Carolina Bankers’ Association, came to congratulate the winners as well.

Sharron Bleyl, Small Business Center director, accepted the award for HCC. Greg Rutherford, dean of workforce development and Regional High Technology Center, also attended the awards ceremony and accepted a duplicate award to be presented to HCC’s Board of Trustees.

“I was honored to accept this award. Small businesses are vital to the economy of this country and Haywood County especially. Out of Haywood’s 1,372 businesses, 1,242 employ less than 20 people. In fact, only 40 businesses employ more than 50 people. The process of growing and supporting healthy business is essential,” Bleyl said.

To find out more information about the SBC, contact Bleyl at 627-4512 or visit the SBC website at www.sbc.haywood.cc.nc.us.

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Cooperative Learning Success

Olivia Martin, math instructor, reported at the ELI faculty development team meeting that she has been implementing cooperative learning after taking the training in August at HCC and is excited about the results. She has compared her students’ competency/exit exam scores who were taught cooperatively and those she taught before cooperative learning and found that her students taught cooperatively had much higher rate of success on the exit exam than any of her other MAT 070 courses she has taught. Students in future classes will continue to be monitored to see if the trend continues. Olivia has found that she uses “pairs” more effectively than larger group sizes. She also uses the informal cooperative learning quite often in teaching her math classes. Students monitor their progress as a group and have responded very well to this instructional technique.

Building Capacity and Stimulating Craft Enterprises

Gary Clontz, lead instructor in professional crafts, and Sharron Bleyl, director of the Small Business Center, were speakers on the HCC role in crafts development at a meeting held recently in Asheville at the offices of The Land of the Sky Regional Planning Council.

A Kurdish delegation from Iraq was in Western North Carolina as guests of our state department and asked for a case study of craft production and marketing as a community development tool. The Land of the Sky Regional Planning Council responded by scheduling several events to help them better understand how our region has succeeded in community development.

More entrepreneurial news?
E-mail Jean at
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March Small Business Seminars

Financing Your Small Business

March 6, 6-8 p.m.



The Basics of Starting a Small Business

March 13, 6-9 p.m.



Tigers Starve Last in the Jungle: Marketing and Selling Your Services

March 20, 6-9 p.m.



Your Business Plan: Perhaps the Most Important Document of Your Business Career

March 27, 6-9 p.m.



Call 627-4512 to preregister.