CEA Newsletter

Center for Entrepreneurial Activities

The CEA’s Mission

The CEA supports and leads research activities related to entrepreneurship and the teaching of formal MBA courses.

It exploits existing EWU and CBPA strengths to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities for startups and early stage companies regardless of gender or ethnicity, with a special emphasis on small, family-owned enterprises, women, Native American and minority entrepreneurs.

The CEA delivers, in conjunction with existing regional entities, programs involving the development of effective entrepreneurial firms as well as intrapreneurship.

It also facilitates networking of entrepreneurs, serving as a clearinghouse for entrepreneurial information and resources.

Additionally, it supports strategic economic development in Spokane and Spokane County by assisting economically challenged neighborhoods with their own firm and related economic development needs.

Research

The Center for Entrepreneurial Activities works within the College, the University-at-large, and with other researchers at other institutions to conduct entrepreneurial research. Such areas have included opportunity recognition; e-commerce; ethics and entrepreneurship; the effect of Sarbanes-Oxley legislation on entrepreneurship; Native American entrepreneurship; and strategy and firm performance studies.

Research papers that have been submitted or accepted in refereed journals include:

- Inter relationships in Industry-Level Demand Equations for Business Games, accepted in S&G (Murff, Teach and Schwartz)
- The Chilling Effects of Sarbanes-Oxley: Myth or Reality, accepted The CPA Journal 2006 (Stephens and Schwartz)
- Clusters and Entrepreneurial Intensity: The Influence of Economic Clusters on Entrepreneurial Activity, accepted in JRME (Pascal)
- Ethical Entrepreneurship: An Oxymoron?: submitted to JSBM (Christensen, Keogh-Hoss and Schwartz)
- Native American Entrepreneurship, submitted to JEB (Stewart and Schwartz)
- Entrepreneurs’ Use of Controversial Political Messages— The Effect on Potential Patrons, accepted in JBE (Nemetz-Mills, Birch, Maldonado)
- 49 Degrees North Mountain Resort, submitted to JRME (Nemetz-Mills)

Upcoming projects include a submission for the ICSB in 2006 on Entrepreneurial Firm Fund Raising with Drs. Schwartz and Kiefer, Mr. Dave Gorton and Devon Cox (CEA student assistant). Another new study is on firm innovation and governance by Drs. Nemetz-Mills and Schwartz and Courtney Jensen (CEA student assistant).

The CEA is also home to the Journal of Research in Marketing and Entrepreneurship, edited by Dr. Schwartz. The journal, under Dr. Schwartz’s stewardship, published it’s first volume last August and the first volume of 2005 is scheduled to be published in July.
Certificate Programs

In the Fall of 2005 we initiated a major departure from the “Incubator without Walls” lectures with a series of new certificate programs. The certificate programs began in the fall and will continue focusing on three areas—small business development, new product development and community leadership.

The Small Business Development seminar, in participation with AHANA focuses on distressed neighborhood clients and attracted 24 participants and 18 businesses. The New Product Development series is aimed at senior existing firm management. Finally individuals representing over eight different neighborhoods participated in the community leadership program.

Business Plan Competition

The business plan competition was created to support new venture ideas, build businesses and create new jobs, as well as to provide educational and networking opportunities for students. It provides students with the opportunity to work either individually or in a collaborative manner to turn innovative ideas into real businesses.

With the support of the Herbert B. Jones Foundation, the competition, in concert with Gonzaga University and Whitworth College, has over $42,500 in prize money for 2006.

Community Service and Outreach Activities

The CEA provides a variety of services to the community including providing support and assistance to AHANA and its clients, as well as assistance in strategic economic development to the East Central, Hillyard, Chief Garry and West Central neighborhoods.

CEA outreach activities are designed to address the interests of individuals starting entrepreneurial businesses, established entrepreneurs more mature firms, and communities. The CEA places special emphasis on start-ups and existing firms headed by minority entrepreneurs.

The Business Resource Center (BRC) serves as a collaborative union between EWU and the other colleges and universities in the community as well as the main outreach component of the CEA. Established in 2003 and continuing through a Herbert B. Jones Foundation award, the BRC is responsible for providing specialized seminars enhanced networking and business education services directly to the people of the Spokane area. To learn more about the BRC please contact Larry Davis at 358-2291 or ldavis@mail.ewu.edu.

Deans’ Seminars

In October the CBPA and Whitworth kicked off the 2005-2006 Deans’ Seminar Series with Spokane County Commissioner Mark Richards discussing economic development. Other speakers and topics included Kim Zentz, Executive Director of SIRTI on high tech firms and Julie Prafke, President of Humanix discussing entrepreneurship in Spokane. Upcoming seminars include a panel on economic development in Spokane neighborhoods (2/21) and Dr. Stephan Humphries, member of the 1985 Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears, discussing teams and leadership. (3/7)

Proposals

The CEA recently submitted proposals to the City and County of Spokane for $100,000 to fund incubator without walls. Co-sponsored by AHANA the County has tentatively approved the proposal while the City submission is pending.

The CEA assisted the Hillyard neighborhood on a transportation proposal for which Hillyard was awarded over $500,000.