

COMMUNITY VITALITY CENTER

A CATALYST FOR CREATING REAL IMPACTS IN REAL COMMUNITIES

477 HEADY HALL

WEB SITE: CVCIA.ORG

PHONE: 515-294-3000

AMES, IA 50011-1070

E-MAIL: CVC@IASTATE.EDU

FAX: 515-294-3838

ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT GRANTS ANNOUNCED

CONTACT: MARK EDELMAN

Ames, IA—The Community Vitality Center (CVC)—operating as a catalyst for innovative community ideas related to entrepreneurship—today announced the award of six local entrepreneur development demonstration grants.

“Each project award includes \$10,000 to match an equal or greater amount of local funding and in-kind contributions”, said Mark A. Edelman, Interim Director of the Community Vitality Center. “The six innovative projects funded by the CVC will help stimulate imagination and complement the other contributions in this area to help move Iowa forward”, noted Edelman.

The following projects were awarded funding.

Des Moines County Area Entrepreneurial Project, sponsored by the Southeast Iowa Entrepreneurial Center, to organize a collaborative initiative to inventory local support resources and create a business start-up manual featuring local contacts in printed and on-line form.

Jefferson County Entrepreneur Mentoring Demonstration Project, sponsored by the Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association, to provide mentoring opportunities and services to the entrepreneurs in the Fairfield and Jefferson County area.

Kossuth County Career Intern Program, sponsored by the Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation, to expand a successful college student intern program in a rural area.

NW Regional Entrepreneurial Conference and Seeds of Success Program, sponsored by the O’Brien County Extension Council, to provide training, assistance, and encouragement to Northwest Iowa residents interested in starting or expanding entrepreneurial businesses.

Palo Alto Area Virtual Incubator--an Incubator Without Walls, sponsored by the Emmetsburg Community Development Commission and Palo Alto Extension, to create partnership that will sustain a virtual incubator of local expertise and mentors for assisting local business start-ups.

SW Iowa Multi-County Cluster Enterprise Facilitation Project, sponsored by the Economic Development Corporation of Audubon and adjacent counties, to take initial steps toward creating a network of motivated people to assist entrepreneurs, and build the multi-county area economy.

“The CVC awarded these grants with two objectives in mind,” said Edelman. “First, we want to implement some of the innovative ideas identified at our Community Entrepreneurship Forums. Secondly, we want to provide other community leaders with the opportunity to learn about the ideas being implemented by communities of different sizes and fiscal means”, Edelman said.

A report summarizing the ideas generated in the series of ten Community Entrepreneurship Forums is available on the Community Vitality Center web site: www.cvcia.org