

Community Vitality Center

A Catalyst for Creating Real Impact in Real Communities

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Conference on Community Strategies for Entrepreneurship Development - October 20th

A conference billed as a “Statewide Academy” on entrepreneurship development strategies for communities will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Best Western Fairfield Inn in Fairfield, IA.

Community leaders, economic developers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholder groups interested in stimulating more entrepreneurship in their communities and local areas are invited to this event to learn about the strategies and innovative approaches that Iowa communities are using to assist, encourage, and support entrepreneurs.

“This is an exciting opportunity to learn about several innovative entrepreneurship development projects that are occurring in Iowa’s communities across the state,” said Mark Edelman, Director of the Community Vitality Center. The CVC has spearheaded the organization of the conference along with the Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association. The event is co-sponsored by several statewide organizations, including the Iowa Area Development Group, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Bankers Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Professional Developers of Iowa, Iowa State Association of Counties, League of Cities, and Iowa Departments of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs.

Keynote speakers will discuss innovative models for entrepreneurship development from selected projects across the nation and participants will hear about several successful community entrepreneurship initiatives and projects from around Iowa. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to examine several different types of approaches including entrepreneurial programs in Fairfield, which won the 2003 National Entrepreneurial Community Award from the Kauffman Foundation and National Center for Small Communities.

“In addition to hearing from local Fairfield leaders and entrepreneurs, participants will hear the story of one Iowa community that had no entrepreneurship programs a year ago, but now can count 7 possible startups after leaders developed a business plan competition and found a donor for a \$5000 investment,” Edelman said.

Panelists will discuss community tools, access to entrepreneurial capital, and building entrepreneurial networks. Participants will be able to examine different kinds of projects including creating entrepreneurial centers, coaching networks, MyEntreNet, Sirolli, microenterprise programs, entrepreneurial food networks, entrepreneurial networks for artists, college intern programs, business plan competitions, and several others.

The early registration fee is \$35.00 per person before October 12th and includes lunch and materials. Conference Registration info is available on the CVC website www.cvcia.org or by calling Becky Johnson, Registration Coordinator, at 515-294-3000.