

Community Vitality Center

A Catalyst for Creating Real Impact in Real Communities

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Community Entrepreneurship Academy Features Manning - October 21, 2005

A statewide “Academy on Community Entrepreneurship” will feature innovative projects from Iowa’s entrepreneurial communities on Friday, October 21, 2005 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Hausbarn Konferenz Centre in Manning, Iowa. The conference will feature entrepreneurs and community leaders who will discuss entrepreneurial experiences, strategies for accessing capital, and entrepreneurial networking ideas.

The Academy is being organized by the Community Vitality Center and is co-sponsored by a number of statewide and local groups including the Manning Betterment Foundation, ISU Extension, Iowa Area Development Group, Iowa Department of Economic development, Iowa Bankers Association, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa League of Cities and Federal Home Loan Bank.

Manning is a community with 1,500 people and has emerged as one of Iowa’s more entrepreneurial small communities. Participants will discuss local entrepreneurial efforts, including Tall Corn Ethanol, Plastico, Caleris, Struve Labs, AGP and efforts to move the 345 year-old Hausbarn from Germany to Manning to enhance pride, cultural heritage, and boost tourism. The audience will discuss important roles that community leaders played in assisting the enterprises and accessing resources to get them started.

Speed Herrig, Cookies BBQ Sauces of Wall Lake will be on hand to address the group after lunch. Brian Dabson, Associate Director of the Rural Policy Research

Institute will provide a national and international perspective on entrepreneurship in nonmetro communities and rural America.

A Wind Entrepreneurship Workshop will feature David Osterberg, Iowa Policy Project; Kieth Kutz, Iowa Energy Center; Tom Wind, Private Consultant; Bob Mulqueen, Iowa Environmental Council; Greg Heide, Pocahontas wind farmer; and a demonstration of CVC's wind project cash flow simulator.

A Workshop Panel on Accessing Capital for Entrepreneurial Projects will feature several statewide experts. Matt Crouse, who has been a project coordinator for two of Iowa's ethanol projects, will discuss raising equity capital. Mark Riesinger, State Director of USDA Rural Development will discuss value added agriculture grants and loans. Bruce Nuzum, Iowa Area Development Group will discuss Iowa's Revolving Loan Funds. Tom Harbison, Lead Business Development Specialist will discuss Small Business Administration's programs for entrepreneurs. Cali Beal, IDED, will talk about community based seed capital funds. Curt Heidt, will discuss the role of financial institutions in supporting Iowa entrepreneurs.

The CVC will highlight several \$1000 to \$2500 incentive programs to assist communities in organizing local workshops and networks for entrepreneurs. Participants will be able to visit one of several local entrepreneurial businesses that are showcased in Manning as they leave for home.

The registration fee includes lunch and materials. To register, click on "Conference Registration" on the CVC website: www.cvcia.org , or call Becky Johnson, Registration Coordinator, at 515-294-3000.