

# *News Release*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## **SBA Denver utilizes e200' Initiative Again and Adds Focus on Native American Business Owners**

**Denver**– The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that it will expand the Emerging 200 (e200), an executive-level training initiative for small business owners, in 2010. The initiative will continue in 10 cities that have participated in the past, and expand into 12 communities with an emphasis on Native American business owners.

“This year’s e200 will be a catalyst for expanding opportunities for small businesses owned by American Indians, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians” Colorado District Office District Director Greg Lopez said.

The expansion of e200 to Native American communities coincides with the President’s appearance before Tribal Leaders on November 5th in Washington, DC, during which he promised that the Administration would work with the Native American community to build economic prosperity. As the President acknowledged that some of the reservations face unemployment of up to 80 percent and roughly a quarter of all Native Americans live in poverty, he stated his commitment to being “full partners in the American economy ... so [their] children and ... grandchildren can have an equal shot at pursuing the American Dream.” The expansion of e200 is part of the Administration’s pledge to achieve these goals.

Since its inception, e200 has identified business owners across the country who show a high potential for growth in underserved markets—and provided them with the training, networking, resources and motivation required to expand operations and create jobs.

To date, more than half of the businesses that participated in e200 have seen an increase in revenue, and nearly two-thirds have created new jobs. Entrepreneurs who have completed the training have secured over \$9 million in new financing for their businesses. Increased confidence in applying for government contracts among trainees has resulted in over \$1.3 million awarded to participating small businesses.

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The nine-month training includes approximately 100 hours of classroom time per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops and develop connections with their peers, city leaders, and financial community.

In the coming weeks, Native America e200 will be taking applications for participants. For more information about the upcoming class, please visit [www.sba.gov/co](http://www.sba.gov/co) or contact the Colorado District office.

# # #



***I'm interested in being an Emerging 200 Native America participant!***

**BUSINESS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER/PRESIDENT/CEO NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRIBAL AFFILIATION (Enrollment/Membership of Principal):** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRIBALLY OWNED ENTITY?: Y/N If yes which Tribe?:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DAYTIME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly Describe Your Business and Interest in e200 Native America:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Return to the U.S. Small Business Administration:***

***By Mail: U.S. Small Business Administration  
721 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 426  
Denver, CO, 80202  
E-mail: benny.ochoa@sba.gov***

***OR By FAX: 303-844-6490***

***Completion of this form is an indication of your interest in the e200 program and does not guarantee that your firm will be an e200 participant. Space is limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.***

***\*\* Companies that will most benefit from this training are small businesses that have been in business three years or more, have one employee, have achieved revenues of \$300,000 or greater, and are located on or near Indian Country\*\****

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**For Questions Contact SBA, Colorado District Office Benny L. Ochoa at (303-844-2607 ext 225)**

***Fax completed form to (303-844-6490)***