



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Philadelphia District Office Holds Business Recruitment Events for Emerging 200 Class of 2010

PHILADELPHIA – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Philadelphia District Office announced today it will hold two March 2010 recruitment events for the Emerging 200 (“e200”) initiative, the Agency’s free-of-charge training initiative targeting inner city business owners with serious growth potential.

E200 is a nationwide SBA training initiative that immerses participants in an intensive 13-week curriculum to enhance their business knowledge and experience. The e200 initiative is designed to assist inner-city businesses accelerate their growth and prepare them for expansion. E200 participants attend sessions focusing, in turn, on growth goals, marketing, sales, financials, exporting, government contracting and accessing capital. Through this coursework, the class works with mentors, develops connections with banks and the private equity community, and drafts a growth plan for their own businesses.

Philadelphia’s e200 class will be comprised of business owners and/or executive officers from 15 Philadelphia area small businesses that have been in business for at least three years and have reached approximately \$400,000 in annual revenue. Ideal candidates for Philadelphia’s e200 Class of 2010 are businesses that, having successfully completed the launch phase, are ready for the next stage of development. Executives that run small business firms within urban neighborhoods are encouraged to contact SBA to discuss eligibility.

This year’s Philadelphia e200 classes will begin in April 2010, concluding with graduation in October 2010.

Recruitment events for the e200 Philadelphia Class of 2010 will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

Thursday, March 25, 2010
6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.
City of Philadelphia
Department of Commerce
1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor
Room 18-020
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Tuesday, March 30, 2010
6:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
200 South Broad Street
Suite 700
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Registration for the recruitment events is required. Please contact the SBA Philadelphia District Office at (610) 382-3062 to register to attend either of these events.

Over the last two years, the e200 initiative in Philadelphia has received strong national and local support. At the 2008 launch of the E-200 initiative in Philadelphia, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter spoke

passionately about the initiative and the positive impact it will have on the Philadelphia economy. On the national level, SBA Administrator Karen Mills shares Mayor Nutter's sentiment: "Over the last few years, e200 has been a catalyst for expanding opportunities for many promising small businesses in underserved communities – in particular those who have been most impacted by these tough economic times," she said. "Graduates of the program have increased their revenue, created jobs and helped drive local economic growth in their communities. SBA's commitment to not only continue, but expand the program, will build on this success and provide even more entrepreneurs in underserved communities with the support, resources and skills to succeed."

The initiative has also received strong ongoing support in Philadelphia from the following sponsors: The City of Philadelphia; AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.; Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia; Continental Bank; The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center; Hispanic Association of Contractors and Enterprises (HACE); PNC Bank; SCORE; Philadelphia Chapter; Urban League of Philadelphia; and Women's Business Development Center.

The selection of Philadelphia as an e200 host city was a prestigious one. SBA will be hosting the training initiative in ten urban areas during 2010 and expanded to reach Native American firms in twelve additional communities. Along with Philadelphia, other e200 cities chosen included Albuquerque, NM; Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; Des Moines, IA; Detroit, MI; Gallup, NM; Jacksonville, FL; Memphis; Milwaukee; New Orleans, LA; Oklahoma City, OK; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; Santa Ana, CA; Seattle; Tucson, AZ; and Tulsa, OK.

For profiles on past Philadelphia e200 participants, please visit:
http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/pa_philadelphia/pa_phil_emerging2008.pdf and
http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/pa_philadelphia/pa_phil_e200class09.pdf

To request an interview or photographs, please contact Jennifer Pilcher, the SBA's Public Information Officer in the Philadelphia District Office, at 610-382-3084 or Jennifer.pilcher@sba.gov.

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The SBA is an independent federal agency, created in 1953, to assist small businesses start, grow, and prosper. The SBA provides financial assistance by: (1) making loans to help families and businesses recover from national disasters and (2) providing loan guarantees to commercial financial institutions for working capital (7a loans), buildings/land/equipment (504 loans through the Certified Development Corporations), and for exports. Through our resource partners, the SBA also offers a variety of business development programs and services such as training, government contracting and export assistance. SBA resource partners include Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, and SCORE (Counselors to America's Small Businesses). For information on the SBA's programs and services contact us at 610-382-3062 or www.sba.gov/pa/phil.