

eNews Archive

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We are pleased to announce that the national E-Commerce Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss the priority areas for the next round of the SRDC's competitive e-commerce grants program. A formal announcement is planned for Fall 2005.

As a result of these SRDC-funded grants, the Northeast Center for Rural Development and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development will be hosting training programs in their respective regions. These seminars are in the planning stages now, but more information will be available soon.

Look for future updates on e-commerce grants and training opportunities on the SRDC website as it becomes available.

Bo Beaulieu
Director

News and Research:

Workshop Promotes Internet Marketing

Mississippi State University Extension Service – Food and Fiber Center

An upcoming workshop will help entrepreneurs learn how to use the Internet to market their products and services. *Electronic Retailing: Selling on the Internet* will be offered August 23 at the MSU-Meridian campus. Four sessions in the daylong workshop will cover Web market strategy, Internet customers, Web site development and other issues. The cost of the seminar is \$20 and includes materials, breaks and lunch.

<http://msucare.com/news/releases/05/050714workshop.html>

New Report Says E-Commerce Up by 31% Despite Security Threats

Verisign.com

While e-commerce grew rapidly during the first quarter of 2005, so did security threats, according to a new report from VeriSign. The number of e-commerce transactions grew 31 percent over the same period last year, with the average transaction value increasing 4 percent from \$144 to \$150. The report is the latest detailing strong e-commerce trends.

http://www.verisign.com/Resources/Intelligence_and_Control_Services_White_Papers/Internet-security-briefing.html

Ebay Becoming Less Popular with Entrepreneurs

By Rachel Konrad, USA Today/The Associated Press

Online entrepreneurs are becoming unhappy with Ebay's new focus on large retailers and rising fees, leaving behind the small home-based marketers that helped the

business reach its current pinnacle over the past 10 years. Sellers are sending a message to Ebay: there are other options.

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2005-06-27-ebayallure_x.htm

Amazon CEO Talks about 10 Years of Success Online

By Byron Acohido, USAToday

USAToday columnist Byron Acohido does a Q&A in this transcript of an interview with Amazon's founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. They discuss competition, stock shares and the future of e-commerce.

http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2005-07-05-amazon-bezos_x.htm

E-Commerce Successes:

Hunt Utilities Group, LLC

By Jay Yoo, University of Minnesota Extension Service, AccessE.info

This environmentally-friendly business in Minnesota is combining the old with the new to create housing that is both healthy (for people and the environment) and comfortable. The owners use the internet as a marketing and research tool for their new business, as well as a significant marketing tool for their other ventures, including a clothing company for expecting mothers.

<http://www.accesse.info/CaseStudies/huntutilitygroupfiles/huntutilitygroup.html>

E-Library Focus:

E-Commerce Assessment Tool

Arkansas Small Business Development Center

Submit this short quiz and receive an immediate FREE online report assessing your company's readiness to engage in Internet commerce. Among other things, it offers a preliminary take on your business's product, market and Internet readiness.

<http://www.asbdc.ualr.edu/ecommerce/tool.asp>

Helpful Tools and Resources:

Best in Class: State Programs for Entrepreneurship

United States Small Business Administration

Earlier this year, the SBA and the Kauffman Foundation held a conference to examine the linkages between entrepreneurship and regional economic growth. The Office of Advocacy offered four awards from programs that were considered "best practices" in their respective disciplines. Idaho, Maryland, Michigan and Wisconsin programs were recipients of the conference honors.

View the conference summary here:

http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/conf_summary.pdf

Or view the full conference proceedings here:

http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/entrep_proc.pdf

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