

# eNews Archive

**September 2005, No. 7**

Welcome to the latest issue of e-News. The SRDC is pleased to announce that the next round of our e-commerce competitive grants program will be released within the next two weeks. This year's program will be seeking innovative proposals in five important areas. The SRDC's National E-Commerce Advisory Committee has been instrumental in outlining the priority areas for attention in this newest round of grants. It is our belief that the products resulting from this latest round will further advance the e-commerce outreach education activities of our land-grant system Extension educators. The deadline for completed proposals will be in early December, with successful grantees being awarded funds around March 2006. We encourage our readers to keep an eye on the SRDC website for the release of the e-commerce RFP ( [www.srdc.msstate.edu](http://www.srdc.msstate.edu) ).

The past year's recipients of our grant program are making excellent progress on their exciting projects. Highlights of the activities of these grantees will be made accessible to our readers in the very near future via our e-commerce website. Finally, the SRDC is in the early stages of revamping the e-commerce website in order to further promote its usefulness to readers within and outside our nation's land-grant university system. We welcome any input that our readers may want to share regarding the type of e-commerce information that could prove most valuable to them.

Bo Beaulieu  
Director

## **News and Research:**

### **Entrepreneurship on the Rise in Rural America**

*By Mina Azodi, Inc.com*

A recent study of Nebraskans suggests business ownership is on the rise, but notes the high cost of health insurance as a possible hindrance to continued entrepreneurial expansion.

<http://www.inc.com/criticalnews/articles/200507/nebraska.html>

### **EBay Agrees to Buy Skype for \$2.6 Billion or More**

*By Mattias Karen, The Associated Press/USAToday*

E-Commerce giant EBay is stepping into the Internet-telephone business with plans to purchase Skype Technologies in a deal worth anywhere from \$2.6 billion to \$4.1 billion.

[http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2005-09-12-ebay-skype\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2005-09-12-ebay-skype_x.htm)

### **Rebuilding Business After Hurricane Katrina**

*United States Small Business Administration*

As residents of the Gulf Coast region try to pick up and get on with their lives, the region's business owners face their own daunting challenges. In addition to rebuilding

their homes, they must also rebuild their livelihoods. The U.S. Small Business Administration operates an extensive disaster recovery program to aid affected small businesses. The program provides a series of loans to affected businesses and residents, who can borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair and replace damaged property. Learn more about the SBA's disaster recovery program by visiting the following link: [http://www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html)

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## **E-Commerce Successes:**

### **Turtle Island Communications**

*By Remi Douah, University of Minnesota Extension Service, AccessE.info*

'Turtleislandcom.com', is run and owned by Mrs. Madonna Peltier-Yawakie and her husband. It is a telecommunication firm created about 3 years ago, and focuses on addressing issues related to digital divide and access to technology in Native American communities across the U.S. She has two full-time employees and has sub-contractors around the country.

<http://www.accesse.info/casestudies/madonnafiles/madonna.html>

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## **E-Library Focus:**

### **Broadband Reality Check: The FCC Ignores America's Digital Divide**

The Free Press/Consumers Union/Consumer Federation of America

According to this new report by Free Press/the Consumer Federation of America/Consumers Union, America's access to affordable, high-speed Internet lags far behind the rest of the digital world, despite a rosy picture painted by the Federal Communications Commission. View the report by clicking [here](#).

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## **Helpful Tools and Resources:**

### **EDPro Blog for Economic Development Professionals**

*Case Western Reserve University*

A new blog focuses on the economy and economic development issues. The purpose of the EDPro web log is to help economic development professionals keep up with the changes sweeping the profession. Blogger Ed Morrison tracks a wide variety of developments in the field and provides commentary. The blog promotes peer learning by sharing the experiences of others in the field. The EDPro blog is sponsored by the Center for Regional Economic Issues at Case Western Reserve University. Subscribe to the web log at the following link:

<http://edpro.blogspot.com>

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