

# eNews *Archive*

**November 2005, No. 8**

We want to remind our e-News recipients who may be affiliated with a land-grant university in the country that the deadline date for our latest round of e-commerce competitive grants is quickly approaching. All proposals must be postmarked by December 9, 2005. On another matter, we are very pleased to announce that two of our sister regional centers – the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development – will be hosting multi-state e-commerce training in their regions in 2006. These regional efforts are being supported, in part, by funds provided to the Southern Rural Development Center in support of the national e-commerce Extension demonstration project administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). We will notify you when the dates for these important training workshops are finalized.

We have some very exciting e-commerce educational curricula being developed by our current and recent grant recipients. We will make these known to our e-News readership as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we encourage you to contact us about any important research or educational programs that you believe would be worth highlighting in future issues of our newsletter.

Bo Beaulieu  
Director

## **News and Research:**

### **Rural E-Commerce Grants Program**

The Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC), located at Mississippi State University, is providing leadership to a national e-commerce demonstration project funded by the U.S. Congress through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). The central goal of this important national effort is to introduce, strengthen and expand the delivery of Extension-based e-commerce educational outreach programs relevant to the needs of small businesses and communities in rural America. This new cycle of e-commerce competitive grants is designed to support activities that delve into a series of topics that complement the e-commerce Extension products currently under development by previous grantees. Approximately \$100,000 is being set aside in this cycle of funding to support this important initiative.

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce>

### **Microsoft Research Announces New Digital Inclusion Funding Opportunity**

As part of its commitment to the academic research community, Microsoft Research has announced a \$1.2 million Digital Inclusion funding opportunity designed to empower academic researchers world-wide to tackle technological challenges in a way that

positively affects health, education and socioeconomic conditions.

[http://research.microsoft.com/ur/us/fundingopps/RFPs/DigitalInclusion\\_2005\\_RFP.doc](http://research.microsoft.com/ur/us/fundingopps/RFPs/DigitalInclusion_2005_RFP.doc)

### **Small Businesses Say Internet Presence Helps Development and Profits**

Small and medium-sized businesses are increasingly using the Internet and believe their websites positively impact sales, communication, marketing and cost efficiency, according to a survey released by 1&1 Internet Inc., a web hosting and domain registration company. Almost all of the 50,000 survey respondents said their web presence provides a positive contribution to their company's development. More than 80 percent say it led to increased sales over the past year.

<http://press.1and1.com/index.php?MSID=2beeff23a1b95f3a79164bb9ec55def4&page=press&mode=displayDetail&id=27>

### **Web Entrepreneurship 2.0**

An interesting set of new articles in *Technology Review* takes a peek at the next generation of web entrepreneurs. As the web has evolved, it's taken a much different form than the old World Wide Web. The basic vision of these new entrepreneurs is that Web 2.0 is not a static set of pages, but rather an exciting platform for the delivery of new services and products.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/topics/sof.asp>

### **States Working on Imposing Online Sales Tax**

Just in time for the holiday shopping season, eighteen states are clearing another hurdle in imposing online sales taxes. The Streamlined Sales Tax Project (SSTP) is organizing 18 states into a new legal entity required before online taxation can occur. However, retailers in these states are under no obligation to collect the taxes. For that to happen, Congress must pass legislation certifying that the states have actually simplified their sales tax structures in order to satisfy a 1992 Supreme Court ruling. The 18 states involved are Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming.

<http://www.ecommerce-guide.com/news/news/article.php/3553471>

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## **E-Commerce Successes:**

### **Wisconsin Growing Through Entrepreneurship**

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle is big on entrepreneurship, and he's backing this commitment with major resources via his *Grow Wisconsin* initiative. First begun in 2003, *Grow Wisconsin* is a series of initiatives that involve a comprehensive approach to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Doyle recently announced an update to the original plan and laid out an aggressive agenda for 2005.

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=4787&locid=19>

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## **Helpful Tools and Resources:**

## **Host a Community Forum on Innovation!!**

Southern Growth Policies Board

How can communities across the South harness the economic potential of technology and innovation??? Find out by hosting a community forum on Innovation and joining more than 1,000 other Southern citizens who will engage in discussions about their community's and the Southern region's economic future. Each year, Southern Growth starts a conversation on a particular issue related to economic development through community forums, or moderated discussions, in communities large and small across the region. This year, forum discussions are focusing on the power of technology and innovation to create jobs and bring wealth to Southern communities .

The feedback from the forums will be used in presentations at the [Southern Innovation Summit](#) on June 4-6, 2006 and in developing the 2006 Report on the Future of the South. Add your community's voice to the conversation by organizing a two-hour discussion with 10 to 30 citizens in your community . Civic clubs, workforce boards, and leadership classes can provide the audience, or create your own.

Southern Growth will provide you with all the materials. Forum materials include a moderator's guide, discussion guides for citizen participants, and questionnaires. You can download the materials, or order materials at <http://www.southern.org/forums.shtml> . If you choose to order materials, Southern Growth will send you supplies within one week. For more information on how to plan or moderate a community forum, contact Linda Hoke at Southern Growth Policies Board at (919) 941-5145 or [lhoke@southern.org](mailto:lhoke@southern.org) .

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