



Success in Atlanta!

The National e-Commerce Extension Initiative's (NEEI) summer workshop in Atlanta was a huge success. The meeting, brought to order by Bo Beaulieu, Director of the Southern Rural Development Center, marked the first of its kind for the Initiative and represents the largest formal collaborative of Extension educators focused solely on e-commerce educational efforts. During the two-day, invitation only workshop, attendees were charged with the task of building regional training efforts to reach a larger Extension community. As a result of the ongoing workshop conversations, exciting new ideas on how to best fit our curriculum into existing Extension education efforts and suggestions on ways to package the existing educational curricula differently to reach larger audiences were discussed. As the agenda moved through a specific training time for each of NEEI's ten learning curricula, the nineteen Extension professionals in attendance were also given time to preview many soon – to – be released educational products currently in development.

In addition to regionally based teams meeting and beginning to prepare their training plans, the most newsworthy part of the workshop was the identification of future research goals and ways in which new research directions will assist regionally dedicated e-commerce Extension educational teams in meeting the e-commerce needs of their prescribed regions. To this end, please watch for upcoming e-mail announcements on both research and workshop mini – grant funding opportunities.

The Entrepreneurship Issue

Despite Recession, U.S. Entrepreneurial Activity Rises in 2009 to Highest Rate in 14 Years, Kauffman Study Shows

Rather than making history for its deep recession and record unemployment, 2009 might instead be remembered as the year business startups reached their highest level in 14 years – even exceeding the number of startups during the peak 1999-2000 technology boom. [Join us here for more on the report from the Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity.](#)

How To Get Startup Capital For Your Business

by Heidi Brown

Coming up with a business idea is just half the battle. Getting funding is what stops most small-business owners in their tracks. However there are some funding approaches that could produce real long term effects. [Click here to read the ten tips for getting start-up cash.](#)

The 12 Best Sources Of Business Financing

By Dileep Rao, Ph.D.

Where and how you finance an operation can be the difference between dominance and failure. Precious capital remains hard to find for small businesses. [Click here for the most likely sources, from least attractive to most.](#)

Women-Owned Businesses: America's New Job Creation Engine

by Mark D. Wolf

Female small business owners are expected to create millions of U.S. jobs while transforming the workplace environment. A remarkable trend is emerging in the U.S. job market--one that will greatly impact the workplace of tomorrow. Women are becoming the nation's job-creation engine, starting small businesses and stimulating new jobs at a rate that outdistances their male counterparts and disproportionately exceeds their current contribution to U.S. employment. [Click here for this special report.](#)

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Fun to Follow

Checklist: The 20 Most Important Questions In Business

A guide to questions that every start – up business owner should consider in order to have a better understanding of possible market outcomes and the plausibility of long range business vitality. [Get the complete check list by clicking here.](#)

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Entrepreneurship and E-Commerce

Exploring E-Commerce

Sales stagnant? Give them a boost by adding an online presence to your business. As with any business move or expansion, considering an online presence can raise a sometimes dizzying list of questions for an entrepreneur. Exactly what must be put in place to make it happen? How does an online presence change the market for the business? What are competitors doing? How will people shop? What kind of security is required? How will customers pay online? To answer these and many other questions [click here.](#)

Ask Entrepreneur

[Click here](#) for a terrific question and answer board for the entrepreneur needing information about e-commerce.

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E-business in the Spotlight

Peru Paper

Right out of Jackson, Mississippi this e-commerce operation is the vision of Grace Bateman, an entrepreneur and social visionary who had the desire to combine her goals of bringing attention to global poverty, eradicating poverty for Peruvian women and also creating a source of personal income. The Peru Paper company produces greeting cards, stationery and paper products that are all handcrafted and designed by Peruvian women using recycled materials. <https://www.perupaper.com/cart>

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Upcoming Conferences

National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship

8th Annual Conference

October 10-13, Orlando, FL

Entrepreneurship: The Community College Role In Economic Vitality

<http://www.nacce2010.com/Overview/Overview.cfm>

The National Association of Seed and Venture Funds

17th Annual Conference

October 13-15, Baltimore, MD

Funding Innovation: Accelerating the New Economy

<http://www.nasvf.org>

The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education

28th Annual Forum

November 12-16, Columbus, OH

http://www.entre-ed.org/_network/forum.htm

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