

MEDIA INFORMATION

News Bureau

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FREE Small Business Training Course Offered in Portageville and Cape Girardeau



The Southeast Innovation Center at Southeast Missouri State University is proud to announce that another free course is coming to Portageville and Cape Girardeau. Starting in early March 2009, the Innovation Center and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Southeast Missouri are partnering to offer small business training classes to dislocated workers in the region. The classes will be offered two nights (Tuesdays and Thursday) a week for six weeks.

The course, titled Operation Jump-Start, is a nationally-recognized, highly successful training model delivered to individuals considering starting or expanding a small business. The program teaches participants essential business planning and preparation skills with non-academic, practical training. The Jump-Start model consistently produces businesses that are still in operation at an astounding rate of 95% after more than two years. The Southeast Innovation Center has been instrumental in training more than 600 individuals who have started over 200 small businesses using the curriculum First Step FastTrac from the Kauffman Foundation. The model also allows individuals to compete for start-up grants (up to \$5000) after completing training and a feasibility plan.

WIB is providing the funding to pay for the classes plus providing the start-up grant funds for those who win the feasibility plan competition. The WIB's mission is to promote a state of economic well being by helping to create a skilled, diverse, motivated, and adaptable workforce in Southeast Missouri. Southeast Missouri employees have suffered a great deal with recent layoffs. This free course gives those laid-off another alternative to conventional employment.

For more information on this free course and to receive an application, please contact Gina Harper at 573-651-2940 or via email at gharper@semo.edu. Seating is limited and an application is required. Candidates will be pre-screened based on the application and notified of acceptance into the course.