Community Vitality Center

A Catalyst for Creating Real Impact in Real Communities

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For Immediate Release
2004 Iowa Boot Camp for Entrepreneurs Slated February 21

January 29, 2004
Iowa City, Iowa
The 2004 Iowa Boot Camp for Entrepreneurs will be held Saturday, February 21st at the University of Iowa Pappajohn Center in Iowa City starting at 9:00am. This all day workshop will feature successful Iowa entrepreneurs sharing their success stories, presentations by some of Iowa's newest and brightest venture capital investors as well a special presentation by Bill Ryan, Portola Strategies, on the Architecture of Identity and the Fundable Story. Bill Ryan works and lives in San Francisco and has helped launch and brand many successful companies and products including the Apple iMac and Yahoo! Other presentations include Iowa entrepreneur Fred Gratzon and author of The Lazy Way to Success: How To Do Nothing and Accomplish Anything and Ed Malloy, Mayor of Fairfield, Winner of the 2003 Grassroots Entrepreneurship Award given by National Council of Small Communities.

The Boot Camp will feature several interesting sessions. Three Iowa startup companies (from the list of registrants) will be invited to get large group feedback form a panel of due diligence experts and professional investors in the breakout session called "In the Hot Seat". The last session of the day will offer entrepreneurs and business people to "Fast Pitch" their business concepts to a number of professional investors, due diligence specialists and business development experts.

Andy Axel, COO of Great River Capital, which is managing Iowa's Fund of Funds, Andy Bock, Early Stage Research, Warren Wechsler from Total Selling and Dennis Wangeman of Iowa First Capital one of Iowa, one of Iowa's newest venture capital firms, will serve up expertise and advice as part of several different panel discussions.

Who would benefit attending this event? Entrepreneurs with good business ideas, startup companies needing to raise money and investors looking for high yield returns. But this is not for entrepreneurs only. "Existing Businesses needing financial help to expand operations will greatly benefit", said conference organizer and President of the Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association, Burt Chojnowski.

"This is a golden educational opportunity for entrepreneurs and those who want to take their business to a higher level to come and learn from others who have been there and who can help make it happen," said Mark Edelman, ISU Extension economist and Director of the Community Vitality Center.

Many groups, organizations and associations have collaborated on this event in order to keep the fees low for attendees - $75 in advance; $90 at the event. These groups include WellMark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers at University of Iowa and at UNI, Silicorn Valley Investors, Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association, Iowa Biotechnology Association, Community Vitality Center, Iowans for a Better Future, Cedar Valley Venture Fund, Software and Information

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Technology of Iowa (SITI), New Ventures Business Accelerator, Cedar Rapids Entrepreneurial Development Center, Fischer Law Firm and CPA Kris G. Gulick.
"The grassroots entrepreneurial development across Iowa is the solution for a myriad problems such as low tax revenues, lack of jobs and sustained economic development," according to Chojnowski.

"This looks to be a golden educational opportunity for entrepreneurs and those who want to take their business to a higher level to come and learn from others who have been there and who can help make it happen," said Mark Edelman, ISU Extension economist and Director of the Community Vitality Center.

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