

Lewis EDC, Centralia College to Host Entrepreneur Networking Event

Seeking Entrepreneurs: Affair Aims to Discuss Ways to Help Job Creators in Lewis County

Entrepreneurship Networking Event at College

The Lewis Economic Development Council and Centralia College are inviting the public for a night of networking with several local entrepreneurs. Attendees will have the opportunity to mingle, ask questions and hear success stories.

Location: Centralia College, Washington Hall Lobby

When: Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Refreshments will be served

Those interested in attending should contact Sara Bowles of the Lewis EDC at (360) 748-0114.

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In order to encourage more entrepreneurship within the county, the Lewis Economic Development Council and Centralia College are teaming up to hold a networking event for students, business owners and community members.

The event is the first of its kind and aims to bring a creative environment to the county, linking local entrepreneurs to the community. The event will allow people to share ideas, hear success stories and ask questions.

EDC Director Matt Matayoshi said this is the first step in creating that environment.

"We're putting entrepreneurship as a center stage priority that is a priority for our organization and the college," he said. "We'll start there and talk about what the needs are in the community. This will lead into other activities following the event."

Matayoshi said the first step is to get the right people in the room. The premise is to invite a variety of entrepreneurs to the event and to start a conversation on how to keep that energy alive in the county.

Special guests will feature Kari Winsor, owner of Blue Earth Farms in Chehalis, Tim Saylor, owner of Service Saw/Workwears Inc. in Chehalis, and consultant John Diefendorf, among others.

He said the conversation will then continue to see how entrepreneurship can be served more effectively, whether that be with small lending programs or a small business development center.

He said the event is important because it can help build strong businesses in the area.

“There are basically two ways to create jobs: we either grow our own jobs or attract jobs from outside the community,” Matayoshi said. “It’s most effective to grow jobs locally, we want to invest in our community businesses and this is the first step to do that.”

He said the event is a good opportunity to learn more about how to start a business, connecting attendees to people who have done it successfully.

“It may inspire not only students, but community members, to take that leap and start a business or explore it more than they have in the past,” he said. “We want to inform the community about entrepreneurship and inspire those that are potential entrepreneurs to take the leap.”