



## REAT Program Status Report, CBED Report 04-09-001

This is one of a series of reports on issues of interest to the Center of Business and Economic Development (CBED) and the ESU School of Business. Each report summarizes readings, analysis and synthesis by the Director, William L. Smith, Ph.D., for discussion, to provide background information to direct our planning processes and to build content for the Center web site at: <http://www.emporia.edu/business/ibed/center/>

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### **Status Report, September 2004 Rural Entrepreneurship and Applied Technology (REAT) Program**

This is a brief status report of each of the five action plans<sup>1</sup> presented during the summer for implementation of the REAT Program.

**Action Plan 1:** A comprehensive resource inventory of entrepreneurial education activities taking place in the area (city, county, region) currently and under current development. If you are providing such activities, we would like to hear from you, to coordinate our activities.

**Status, Sep 2004:** CBED will write a grant proposal for this activity, during Fall 2004, probably for Summer 2005 implementation. CBED is collecting some preliminary data, during Fall 2004, in preparation for writing the grant and performing the resource inventory report.

**Action Plan 2:** A coordination plan for integrated activities of the several youth/college/university entrepreneurial organizational activities in the area.

**Status, Sep 2004:** Late 2005 or early 2006, based on Summer 2005 inventory. CBED will write a grant proposal for this.

**Action Plan 3:** A comprehensive resource inventory of entrepreneurial support services in the area (city, county, region) including those available via internet. This study is underway. Please contact us, if you provide such services, so that we can include you, not only in the resource inventory report, but in future planning and coordination efforts!

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<sup>1</sup> CBED Report 04-07-006, "Enterprise Development to Build Entrepreneurial Communities or Regions Overview White Paper."  
<http://www.emporia.edu/business/ibed/center/reports/cbed0407006.pdf>



**Status, Sep 2004:** Phase One of this Inventory is underway, conducted by the CBED, to do preliminary identification of available resources. CBED is writing a grant for Phase Two, a survey of these preliminary resources, to determine extent of their offerings and referrals, as well as Phase Three, the Inventory Report (written report and online). CBED will seek grant funding under Kansas Economic Growth Act (KDOC/KTEC).

**Action Plan 4:** Create a coordinating infrastructure to assist all area entrepreneurs, to inspire collaboration by all support services, and identify and create new services needed.

**Status, Sep 2004:** First Working Paper Draft by CBED complete, online. The CBED is beginning to draft a grant request to fund a demonstration project from the Kauffman Foundation. Hope to begin implementation of the demonstration project during 2005 calendar year. It is expected that the demonstration project would lead to private external funding for the long-term.

**Action Plan 5:** Identify resources needed by entrepreneurs that do not currently exist and initiate actions to obtain those resources through local initiatives, grant requests, etc. This has been given the acronym the GROOM project: GRow Our Own Magic - creating businesses here in the Flint Hills of Kansas, in the Flint Hills Triangle.

**Status, Sep 2004:** CBED, SBDC, Dr. Bill Smith and Dr. Ken Schallenkamp are currently conducting a research project survey to validate the needs assessment tool for the GROOM project. The GROOM project may be included in the demonstration project grant request to the Kauffman Foundation for Action Plan 4. That final decision is pending.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Smith, Director, CBED, September 13, 2004.