



Sharing news from the Center for Business and Economic Development (CBED) at the [School of Business, Emporia State University](#)

! "Rural Entrepreneurship and Applied Technology" (REAT) Program marks progress

Entrepreneurship has joined Technology as a high priority for Kansas research and economic development with the enactment of the 2004 Kansas Economic Growth Act in April. "Growing Our Own" businesses, through encouragement of entrepreneurship in our communities, is now a statewide priority (along with encouraging businesses to move to Kansas). At Emporia State University, set in a rural environment, this means using our applied research approach to assist those with innovative uses of all kinds of technology to discover the opportunities that exist to commercialize their products and services through support of entrepreneurial endeavors in our community and region of the state. This newsletter shares progress on a number of these endeavors.

As a part of building the Rural Enterprise and Applied Technology program envisioned, a set of five action plans was adopted and reported in the Summer Newsletter. They lay the foundation for development of the coordinating infrastructure and grant applications for creation of missing assets and service providers identified. Following is a summary of progress on the action plans, being carried out by the CBED faculty and staff of the ESU School of Business:

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. This activity is currently scheduled to begin during the summer of 2005.

Action Plan 2: A coordination plan for integrated activities of the several youth/college/university entrepreneurial organizational activities in the area. This will begin in the latter part of 2005, following data collection and analysis from Action Plan 1.

Action Plan 3: A comprehensive resource inventory of entrepreneurial support services in the area (city, county, region) including those available via internet. This activity was initiated during the Fall of 2004 and will continue in the early months of 2005. Please [contact us](#), if you provide such

! News

Biosciences Business Group members work on statewide

Biosciences Roadmap

Dr. Bill Smith, of the ESU School of Business, and coordinator of the Biosciences Business Group attended the North Central Regional Bioscience and Innovation Summit, October 5, 2004, at Kansas State University. He was also appointed to one of the Hot Teams created to develop specific business plan recommendations toward the Biosciences Roadmap during the first quarter of 2005.

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ESU SIFE Team conducts successful 1st Annual Business Plan Competition

The ESU SIFE Team, on November 16, conducted the 1st Annual Business Plan Competition for teams of college and university level students.

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Faculty members and

services, so that we can include you, not only in the resource inventory report, but in future planning and coordination efforts!

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. This is currently scheduled to begin in the latter half of 2005, pending the results of grant applications to the Kauffman Foundation, American Express Company Foundation, the Coleman Foundation and the Kansas Department of Commerce. This will be closely coordinated with the newly created statewide Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship (Board of Directors appointed December 9, 2004) activities.

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: **GR**ow **O**ur **O**wn **M**agic - creating businesses here in the Flint Hills of Kansas, in the [Flint Hills Triangle](#). Planning for this activity continues. A related research project is underway, with results expected early in 2005. One grant has been obtained for a speaker/forum/workshop in the Spring of 2005, with a theme, "Entrepreneurship is Everybody's Business." Dr. Smith has attended a series of conferences, workshops and meetings on Agritourism that will provide numerous entrepreneurial opportunities in the Flint Hills region.

For additional background information, read the [White Papers at CBED Reports](#) and the [Working Paper Series](#) there, as well.

Administrators from both the ESU School of Business and the Flint Hills Technical College meet to discuss workforce development.

The meeting in September included representatives from the Kansas Department of Commerce and revolved around what would be necessary to create a Center of Manufacturing and Applied Technology in Emporia. All participants shared their views of available resources and opportunities. Discussion will continue.

Agritourism seen as an entrepreneurial opportunity in the Flint Hills.

The Flint Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council has led this effort.

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