



Celebrating 30 Years of Small Business Success

May 5, 2014

In Today's Weekly Connection:

- ✦ **2014 Tibbetts Deadline Extended to Friday, May 9th**
- ✦ **Non-profit and Community Partners Team Up for Small Business Week 2014**
- ✦ **Program Success of the Week – Air Technology Solutions**
- ✦ **Resource of the Week – Retail Studio Effect**
- ✦ **Neoserra/WebCATS Update**
- ✦ **Moves and News**
- ✦ **America's SBDC Network Connect**

2014 Tibbetts Deadline Extended to Friday, May 9th

The Deadline for submitting 2014 Tibbetts and SBIR Hall of Fame Nominations has been extended by a week to Friday, May 9, 2014 (11:59pm). This brief email is a reminder that the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2014 Tibbetts and/or SBIR Hall of Fame Awards is Friday, May 9, 2014. As a State level Innovation Leader, you and your organization work closely with your State's leading Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) firms. With this in mind, we ask that you consider making nominations for deserving firms from your State. The deadline is fast approaching but there is still time to make nominations.

Additional information on the nomination process can be found at:

<http://www.sbir.gov/news/2014-tibbetts-and-hall-fame-award-nominations>

Non-profit and Community Partners Team Up for National Small Business Week 2014

National Small Business Week, the annual event hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration to recognize the nation's top small businesses, entrepreneurs, small business advocates and champions, kicks off its activities May 12 in San Francisco. The celebrations will continue through May 16 with similar events in Kansas City, May 13; Boston, May 15; and Washington, D.C., May 15-16.

Activities in all four cities will feature national level speakers, workshops, expert panels on a variety of entrepreneurial topics, and business matchmaking opportunities. The national celebrations will culminate with the presentation of the National Small Business Person of the Year award in Washington, D.C., on May 16.

This year 40 non-profit and community partners have teamed up with SBA to help promote National Small Business Week and ensure that the week is a complete success:

Accion East
Alliance for Multicultural Entrepreneurs
American Booksellers Association
America's Small Business Development Centers
Asian Business Association
Association of Women's Business Centers
Babson College Center for Entrepreneurship
Business Forward
California Association of Microenterprise Opportunity
Chatham University
Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
International Franchise Association
iStart Jax
Latin Business Association
Latina Style Magazine
MicroMentor
Minority Business Roundtable
National Association for the Self-Employed
National Association of Development Companies
National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders
National Association of Professional Employer Organizations
National Black MBA Association
National Federation of Independent Business
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
National League of Cities
National Small Business Association
National Urban League
Native American Contractors Association
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Small Business Investors Alliance
Small Business Legislative Committee
Small Business Majority
Small Business Minnesota
The Latino Coalition
US Black Chamber
US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Women Impacting Public Policy
Women in Diversified Services

For additional information on National Small Business Week, please visit
<http://www.sba.gov/smallbusinessweek>

Program Success of the Week – Air Technology Solutions

Air Technology Solutions (ATS) combines expertise in the air quality services industry with state-of-the-art equipment to provide innovative, engineered air quality solutions for each of its clients — regardless of the environment. Airmation, one of their best selling products, is a vehicle exhaust removal system popular with fire departments. They also provide environmental products to The U.S. Veteran's Administration.

ATS earned a General Service Administration (GSA) contract; a key certification because ATS sells their products to agencies and facilities at all levels of government; local, state and federal.

ATS began working with Ann Johns at the Illinois Procurement and Technical Assistance Center at Rock Valley College in May, 2013.

ATS owner Daniel Orto said, "Ann has provided me and my staff with the training and guidance to make ATS's GSA contract successful . . . She has also assisted with finding bid leads, eMODS, SIP software and the difficult WAWF program. Most recently she conducted a pre-review audit for me and my assistant in preparing for an upcoming GSA audit. The GSA audit known as a Contractor Assistance Visit (CAV) was to help determine if GSA would renew the contract. At my request, Ann sat in on the four hour audit on April 24th . . ." The review concluded with a recommendation that ATS renew their GSA contract for five years.

Resource of the Week – Retail Studio Effect

Retail studio effect is a process that edits your photograph of your product to look as if it was photographed in a studio. Cost is per image and volume discounts are available.

Learn more at: www.retailstudioeffect.com

Neoserra/WebCATS Update – Professional Development & Inquiries

Please continue to put Professional Development in WebCATS. Neoserra and WebCATS do not communicate on this issue. By keeping all Professional Development in WebCATS you can run an accurate report on hours earned.

For those of you who used the Inquiries module in WebCATS, you will be happy to know that Inquiries have also been made available in Neoserra. This record type can be made visible in your database by your system administrator under the Administration|Configuration|General Settings menu item. You can add inquiries records to the contacts in your database. This record type can be used to track in-coming phone calls and general inquiries from contacts. To add an inquiry from the contact record, simply choose New|Inquiry. Keep in mind that this record type is not designed to track counseling effort and any time tracked as an inquiry will not be including as counseling time.

We are continuing to work on Neoserra, and if you have discovered another feature that you would like to see in Neoserra, please email us and we will try and add it.

Moves and News – Small Business Week & Green Drives

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2014 KICKOFF - EXPANDING MARKETS FOR ILLINOIS SMALL BUSINESSES

Join the U.S. Small Business Administration – Illinois District Office in collaboration with SCORE: For the Life of Your Business, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity – Small Business Development Center Network and the Women's Business Development Center to celebrate this year's Small Business Week and learn about resource opportunities available to help grow your business.

WHEN: May 9, 2014

7:30am – 1:30pm

WHERE: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
230 S LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60604

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Green Drives, Hosted by the Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition

Come hear major automakers and green fuel & vehicle technology experts speak at the 3rd annual GREEN DRIVE\$ 2014, a *FREE* event which will showcase the latest in green vehicle technology and offer an extensive ride-and-drive opportunity. Whether you are new to the alternative fuel industry or are already using clean fuel vehicles, you are sure to find value in this comprehensive one day conference. Visit CACC's website for details:

<http://www.chicagocleancities.org/component/ohanah/green-drive-2014?Itemid>

America's SBDC Network Connect

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the May 1, 2014 edition of [America's SBDC Network Connect newsletter](#).

=====

The **WEEKLY CONNECTION** is distributed by the Illinois SBDC and DCEO Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology each Monday to members of the DCEO Illinois SBDC Network to provide the service delivery partners with regular updates on small business issues, opportunities and resources. You may send any information to share with the Illinois SBDC Network to Tom.Becker@illinois.gov. Please feel free to forward this update to other interested resource providers and key stakeholders.

=====



Celebrating 30 Years of Small Business Success

