

	<p style="text-align: center;">Illinois Small Business Development Center Network</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WEEKLY CONNECTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Entrepreneurship ~ Innovation ~ Technology</p>	
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“Providing Professional Guidance for Business Growth”

August 24, 2015

In Today's Weekly Connection:

- + **Spotlight on Success – Let's Learn Children's Academy**
- + **SBDC's In The News – Start-Up in a Day**
- + **Maximizing Neoserra – Adding Scorecard Graphs**
- + **Valued Resources – City of Chicago Business Education Workshops**
- + **Network News and Moves – Small Business Roundtable**
- + **America's SBDCs Annual Conference**

Spotlight on Success – Let's Learn Children's Academy

Ciesta Crite has run a day care out of her home since 2000. Later, her daughter also opened a day care to help fill the local need. In 2013 they decided to combine efforts to open a more comprehensive day care facility. With help the **Illinois Small Business Development Center at Kankakee Community College**, the duo found a building and began renovation. In May 2015 Let's Learn Children's Academy opened for business.

Let's Learn is licensed to care for over 100 children and is open from 6:00 AM to midnight seven days a week. Ms. Crite explained, “We decided to open seven days per week to accommodate the parents who work the off shifts and needed care. We also have a drop in service so if the parents want to get a break, or just catch a movie, we will be here to serve them.” Let's Learn employs nine teachers, five teacher's assistants and a food prep/cook. Ms. Crite hopes to open one more facility in within the next few years once Let's Learn is functioning well.

Ms. Crite continues, “I am thankful to the **Illinois SBDC at Kankakee Community College** for all of their assistance. When I first had the idea of moving from home to center, (the SBDC) offered a lot of sound advice to make the transition smoother. Through this direction, we were able to secure some micro financing through ACCION Chicago and other resources to assist with the business startup.”

SBDC's In The News

City of Champaign Named in SBA “Start-Up in a Day: Start Small” competition - The City of Champaign was awarded the U.S. Small Business Association's (SBA) first ever “Start-Up in a Day: Start Small” competition. Champaign was one of 25 cities selected out of 100 applicants. The SBA announced the winners at the White House Demo Day on Tuesday, August 4th.

The \$50,000 award will help fund the development, enhancement, and marketing of the proposed Virtual Incubator Program. The Virtual Incubator concept is more than a virtual space for simplifying and streamlining the small business start-up process; it is a partnership between all local agencies providing entrepreneurship services throughout Champaign County. **The Virtual Incubator will be managed and coordinated by the local Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) located at the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation.**

Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen stated, “The City of Champaign is committed to improving the start-up process for aspiring entrepreneurs in our community. This award provides a great opportunity to move our Virtual Incubator Program forward and begin opening the doors of opportunity to all our citizens.”

Maximizing Neoserra – Adding Scorecard Graphs

You can now see more than one scorecard graph when opening Neoserra. Staff at Centers offering multiple services (SBDC, ITC, TIES) can view a graph for each service.

Please contact Tom Becker if you would like to add another graph to your opening screen.

Tom.becker@illinois.gov

Valued Resources – City of Chicago Business Education Workshops

The City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection (BACP) offers **FREE** business workshops every Wednesday and Friday at City Hall, 8th Floor. To register for a workshop call 312-744-2086. You also can register by emailing

BACPoutreach@cityofchicago.org. [Click here](#) to view full monthly calendar. All workshops are free and are located at the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection - City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Room 805.

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The City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and the Small
to its [FREE Small Business Center on the Road business expo](#) with more than 40 exhibitors offering

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able for license application and renewal assistance

winner of the first season of NBC's breakthrough program "The Apprentice". Currently, Bill is speaking to
and business topics, developing real estate in Chicago, and producing and appearing in several television
o. A published author of a New York Times best-selling book, Bill wrote You're Hired: How To Succeed In
ite and motivate young people worldwide about the value of money and how to leverage skills, talents and

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o use for marketing and social media sites
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Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

with small business entrepreneurs regarding the transactional legal aspects of their small business: including
preparation and review and compliance with state and local laws. Click [Small Business Expo](#) to find more

Network News and Moves – Small Business Roundtable

IRS and participating Small Business Providers - Invite you to attend the SMALL BUSINESS
ROUNDTABLE on September 10, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This is a conference call,
call-in information is: 1-888-331-8226 x 7575047 - The forum joins small business associations
& government agencies that service them such as:

IRS, SBA, State of Illinois, City of Chicago and more...

Together we can:

- Share the latest resources & initiatives for Small
Businesses
- Partnership & collaboration in our events
- Build & strengthen our working relationships
- Discuss concerns & issues

This meeting is intended for directors and/or representatives of non-for-profit, federal, state, and
city, small business organizations. It is not open to the general public.

Although many of the Illinois SBDCs will be at the America's SBDCs National Conference, we
encourage available members of the Illinois SBDC Network to join in on the partner call with the
IRS and other small business providers.

America's SBDC Network Connect

Check out information below about just a few of the keynote speakers below for the fast approaching America's SBDCs Annual Conference in San Francisco. Also below you will find information on how to download the Conference App. Stay Connected by following on Twitter and Facebook for updates on conference using the event hashtag is **#2015SBDC**. See what people are saying about our conference --->[here!](#)

Keynote Speakers



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th
Sheryl Sandberg, COO, Facebook
Opening General Session
Hosted by Facebook



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th
Rhonda Abrams, The PlanningShop
Jules Pieri, The Grommet
Stephanie Ericksen, VISA
Amy Norman, Little Passports
General Session, "Small Talks"
Hosted by VISA

Download the 2015 Conference App!

Search your App store for "America's SBDC Annual Conference"
or on your mobile device go to -
<https://m.core-apps.com/asbdc15ac>

The 2015 Conference Workshop info will not
be printed in the program. You must access
the APP or use onsite digital materials.



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

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