



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: February 05, 2014
Release Number: 14-03

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SBA Launches 2014 Emerging Leaders Initiative

Entrepreneur Training Initiative Sparks Small Business Growth, Job Creation

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration has launched its 2014 Emerging Leaders (formerly e200) executive-level intensive entrepreneurship training initiative for small business owners in 27 cities and communities across the country. Entering its seventh consecutive year, the initiative has trained more than 2,000 promising small business owners in underserved communities, and continues to expand its impact helping small businesses grow and create jobs. New Orleans was selected again this year to host Emerging Leaders.

“Emerging Leaders has a proven track record of helping small businesses in underserved communities,” said SBA Acting Administrator Jeanne Hult. “Graduates of the program have increased their revenue, created jobs and helped drive local economic growth in their communities. Adding new locations this year builds on this success and provides even more entrepreneurs in underserved communities with the support, resources and skills to succeed.”

The Emerging Leaders initiative has been a catalyst for expanding opportunities for underserved communities. Surveyed Emerging Leader graduates have created nearly 2,000 new full-time jobs have been created since the program’s inception. These graduates also reported having secured more than \$73 million in new financing for their businesses, and an increase in confidence when competing for government contracts. After participants in the Emerging Leaders training graduate, companies have reported they were awarded federal, state, local and tribal contracts, worth more than \$1 billion. Sixty-two percent of surveyed participants reported an increase in revenue while 72 percent of those surveyed reported maintaining or creating new jobs in their communities.

In 2013, the initiative graduated nearly 400 small business owners, representing the largest graduating class since it began in 2008. Last year, 11 small business owners from across the state of Louisiana graduated from the New Orleans Emerging Leaders program.

The seven month executive intensive entrepreneurship education series includes approximately 100 hours of classroom time per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops, and develop connections with their peers, city leaders, and financial communities.

Local recruitment for the 2014 training cycle is underway at selected SBA district offices, and classes are scheduled to begin in April. The Emerging Leaders training program is for established business owners and is not for start-ups or people who are thinking about starting a business. The Emerging

Leaders Initiative advanced training series is open to small business owners and executives that: have annual revenues of at least \$400,000; have been in business for at least 3 years; and have at least one employee, other than self.

Additional information on how interested small business owners can apply and on the eligibility criteria can be found at www.sba.gov/emergingleaders.

The other cities hosting Emerging Leaders initiative classes in 2014 are:

- Albuquerque, N.M
- Atlanta, Ga.
- Baltimore, Md.
- Boston, Mass.
- Chicago, Ill.
- Dallas, Texas
- Denver, Colo.
- Detroit, Mich.
- Fresno, Calif.
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Newark, N.J.
- Los Angeles, Calif.
- Memphis, Tenn.
- Miami, Fla.
- Milwaukee, Wis.
- Minneapolis, Minn.
- Oklahoma City, Okla.
- Philadelphia, Pa.
- Phoenix, Ariz.
- Portland, Ore.
- Seattle, Wash
- St. Louis, Mo.
- Syracuse, N.Y.
- Washington, D.C.
- Wichita, Kan.
- Youngstown, Ohio

For more information about Emerging Leaders, or to contact the respective local SBA District office in that area, go to www.sba.gov/emergingleaders.