

ACE Academic Center for Entrepreneurship

Bristol Community College, Fall River MA

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ACE receives grant from the Institute for Community College Development, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Each year, the Institute for Community College Development (ICCD) awards Applied Research Grants to faculty and staff at community colleges across the country to study issues of importance to community college leaders. The Academic Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) was one of only six recipients for the 2006/2007 award. With this grant, ACE is validating a 4-step entrepreneurship curriculum model. The study compares the progress made by a group of twenty students who are completing all or part of the four step model, to twenty other students who followed the previous curriculum which consisted of only 3 steps. The important fourth step, made possible by the grant, is an on campus mentoring session involving an adjunct business instructor and the future entrepreneur. The six grant recipients were brought together in February at a Charlotte, NC Conference to discuss their work to date as well as other entrepreneurial themes in the educational field. The trip was funded by The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the largest entrepreneurial philanthropic organization in the nation.

Take the Challenge

The first annual EntrepreneurshipWeekUSA ran from February 26 – March 3, 2007. Schools from across the country (secondary and post-secondary) were invited to participate in some of the many offered activities or to develop their own unique activity. One object of the week was to seize the attention of students across the country and to motivate them to think in an innovative manner. ACE chose to “Take the Challenge” on our campus. Taking the challenge consisted of “adding value” to an everyday item, in this case a pad of post its. The “value added” could be in terms of educational value, social value, profit created, etc. We had several entries and the two winners were announced and sent forward to a national competition. Christopher Arruda, Manufacturing Engineering student produced a **Post it wristband holder** and Holly Hallstead produced post its with **missing person pictures and characteristics** imprinted on them “I thought that our entries were

Mission Statement

ACE is a resource center devoted to guiding the small and micro enterprise owner toward their goal of operating a successful and productive business. It is equally devoted to creating an alliance between education and economic development.

What does ACE do for you?

Advice Learn about appropriate courses workshops to augment your existing skills and receive consultation each step of the way.

Direction

Connect with the mentor from your field, set up meetings with small business experts.

Preparation

Offering incubation possibilities, training the trainers, motivational and informative speaker series.

Support

Access to College resources such as the Computer Lab, the Writing Lab, Quickbooks and Peachtree Accounting Software.

outstanding, I was very impressed”, said Phoebe Blackburn, Director of ACE. I am considering putting forth additional periodic “Take the Challenge” events on campus to keep the creative thoughts flowing. To see the national winning entries, please go to www.entrepreneurshipweekusa.com/home-flash.asp

Presentations

During the Spring2007 semester the Academic Center for Entrepreneurship presented at two conferences.

The 4th Annual National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) Conference on January 8-11, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. Nicole Heaney, Coordinator for the Cooperative Education Program at BCC and member of the ACE Advisory Board presented, PATH to Success in a breakout session. The focus of the conference was “Entrepreneurial Leadership, Revolutionizing Community Colleges”.

The Cornell University Institute of Community College Development Conference on “The Entrepreneurial College” on February 7 -9, 2007 at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was a three-day interactive workshop for administrators and faculty focusing on entrepreneurial leadership, implementing entrepreneurship curricula, business incubators, and community economic development. Phoebe Blackburn, Director of ACE presented a breakout session along with Carleen Cassidy of Anne Arundell Community College, Maryland on entrepreneurship curriculum. ACE was also invited to be part of a small group meeting with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to discuss relevant issues in the field of entrepreneurial education.

Upcoming events

Please save the date of May 2, 2007 to attend the 1st Annual Entrepreneurship Expo and Award Ceremony at Bristol Community College. The evening will encompass many activities and presentations including a speaking Presentation by the Cardi Brothers of Cardi Furniture, an award presentation to local entrepreneurship, an exposition of small business services, workshops relating to small business needs and a reception. The event will be held from 4:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth Center. For a copy of the award nomination form, please go to http://srvweb.bristol.mass.edu/serena/Community_Education/ace/index.cfm

Coming This Summer

"Starting Your Own Business" for Kids College and Upward Bound.

Affiliations and Online Resources

SCORE- Service Corps of Retired Executives www.score.org

MSBDC- Massachusetts Small Business Development Center www.msbdc.org/semass

NACCE- National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship www.nacce.com

SBA- Small Business Administration www.sba.gov

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The design of this eNewsletter was developed in Spring 2007 by Ana B. LaCroix as a Service-Learning Project in CIS29
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