



## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Google have announced a new partnership and unveiled "Tools for Online Success," an array of online resources and training designed to help small business owners harness technology to grow their businesses. The site features tutorials, video testimonials, and tips from savvy small business people who have leveraged the web to become more efficient, more cost-effective, and more successful. Access the site at <http://www.google.com/help/places/partners/sba/index.html>.

Please sign up to receive the latest in business news from the Federal Government at [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov), the website was designed for business owners.

A study entitled New Business Clustering in U.S. Counties, 1990- 2006, by Larry A. Plummer, <http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs360tot.pdf> focuses on Entrepreneurial activity and how similar activity in neighboring jurisdictions, are related. The study sheds light on business activity related to levels of education, industry, economic growth patterns, and geography based on census data in regards to business startup and closure data from 1990-2006 census information.

Rep. John Barrow recently introduced H.R. 5282, authorizing funds for the Army Corps of Engineers Veterans Curation Program, which was originally funded under the Recovery Act. The program hires veterans to curate artifacts that have been dug up by the Army Corps of Engineers and need to be catalogued. In the process, they learn valuable technical skills in computer, photographic, and scanning technology. Currently, the Veterans Curation Program employs 50 veterans per year in Augusta, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C, but the funding is set to run out. This bill would make funding for the program permanent, would increase the funding available, and would double the amount of veterans hired to 100 per year.

President Barak Obama has signed a bill that will improve health care for Veterans and recognize the important role family caregivers play in the recovery of wounded personnel. The new law increases support for Veterans in rural areas with the transportation and housing needed to reach VA hospitals and clinics. It also expands health care for women Veterans to meet their unique needs, including maternity care for newborn children,

and it allows VA to launch a pilot program to provide child care for Veterans receiving intensive medical care access the information at [http://www.disability.gov/health/specific\\_populations/veterans\\_&\\_military](http://www.disability.gov/health/specific_populations/veterans_&_military).

Businesses looking to do business with the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs can utilize the Fedmarket VA Directory which provides information needed to develop a marketing strategy, target your salespeople, and bring in business. The VA Directory package includes: Contact information for 1500 Agency contacts and 3900 Veterans Affairs Official Buyers; Products and services the VA has purchased in the past IT spending details; A VA budget outline and links to bid opportunities. The Veterans Affairs Directory also provides links to awards and information on set-asides and Small Business procurement forecasts. To see more about the VA Directory, visit <http://www.fedmarket.com/index.shtml> or call 301 652 9504, press 2.

The Economic Development Loan Program, also known as the Small Business Development Loan Program (SBDLP) was created to provide financial and technical assistance to all entrepreneurs seeking to establish new businesses or to expand existing ones and satisfies the "low/moderate income benefit" objective of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Augusta Housing and Community Development Department (AHCCDD) is the responsible agency in regards to businesses development in the City of Augusta and strongly believe that small businesses are the backbone of Augusta's economy. The City of Augusta recognizes that there are many obstacles that impede the success of small businesses and the loan program recognizes that and offers products and services to help small businesses and entrepreneurs get started and remain in business. Financial and technical assistance is offered to small businesses and entrepreneurs located and operating within Augusta – Richmond County of Augusta, Georgia. Each client receiving financial assistance through the Small Business Development Loan Program will agree to accept required technical assistance upon the recommendation of the (AHCCDD). For additional information please contact the [Assistant Director-Housing](#) at (706) 821-1797.

Keeping you Informed

### MBDA News

The Minority Business program of the U. S. Government is administered by the Commerce Department, under the direction of St. Louis, MO native David Hinson. The website for the agency is <http://www.mbda.gov>.



The 2010 MBDA Summit will take place 8 - 9 June 2010 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The summit will bring minority entrepreneurs, thought leaders, practitioners and stakeholders together in for a single purpose: to strengthen public policies and programs directed at fostering the growth and competitiveness of minority business enterprises. Featured topics for discussion are: the legal landscape confronting race-based business programs; revised regulations and policies associated with minority business programs; new programs and strategies for minority business growth; legislative activities of stakeholders and Congress. The Summit will also include opportunities for stakeholder collaboration, business meetings and a congressional reception. With your participation, we can continue to build a strong global network of minority businesses, and strengthen and devise strategies designed to increase the capacity of MBEs so they are economically viable and sustainable into the future.

Save the Date - The U. S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Diversity Agency, Minority Enterprise Development Week Atlanta, August 12 - 14, 2010. The conference theme is "Strategies for Growth and Competitiveness in the Global Economy"



#### Quote of the Month

*"Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve."*  
.....Mary Kay Ash

### SBA News

Visit the Small Business Administration website to find valuable information in regards minority, women and veteran owned businesses at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and the SBA Georgia District office website at <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ga/index.html>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**National Small Business Week** 2010, 23 - 25 May 2010 in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Small Business Administration, during the conference small business owners will have an opportunity to exchange ideas and dialogue with leading business experts during free town hall and business forums. Access information can be found at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/press/newsadvisory.pdf>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Economy and Small Business Quarterly Indicators** report can be found at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/sbqei1001.pdf>. The report includes information on GDP growth, information on economic trends, and recovery news.

\*\*\*\*\*

Volume 29, number 3 of The Small Business Advocate, a newsletter that details economic developments and regulatory trends related to small business as well as the latest initiatives of the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy can be found at [http://www.sba.gov/advo/april\\_may10.pdf](http://www.sba.gov/advo/april_may10.pdf).

### UGA Small Business Development Center

University of Georgia Small Business Development Center can be assessed by clicking on the following link <http://www.sbdc.uga.edu/newsite/index.aspx?cart=42eddb4c-e432-451c-a189-1067b921468b&>

### Office of Minority Business Development

The April issue of the UGA SBDC March newsletter can be viewed by clicking [http://www.sbdc.uga.edu/pdfs/essential\\_news\\_april10.pdf](http://www.sbdc.uga.edu/pdfs/essential_news_april10.pdf)

### Upcoming UGA SBDC Events in Augusta

- Starting A Business - 18 May 2010 - 6:00 PM - \$69.00
- Introduction to QuickBooks - 21 May 2010, 9:00 AM - \$149.00

If you have not done so already, please return your *Census form and encourage others you know to complete and return their form as well. We cannot move forward, until the form is mailed back.* Visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/> for information.

\*\*\*\*\*

President Barack Obama recently signed legislation which provided an additional \$80 million dollars to continue important enhancements in two of the U.S. Small Business Administration's key small business loan programs.. The enhancements, first made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, include higher guarantees on some SBA-backed loans and small business fee relief. The SBA estimates that the \$80 million addition will support about \$2.8 billion in small business lending under the 7(a) and 504 programs. The President also signed the HIRE Act, a jobs bill that provides small businesses with incentives to spur hiring and help put Americans back to work. Saying that "while this jobs bill is absolutely necessary, it's by no means enough," the President pledged that this was just one step amongst many. The HIRE Act: - Provides tax cuts for businesses that hire someone who has been out of work for at least 2 months, allows businesses to write off investments in equipment, encourage job creation by expanding investments in schools and clean energy projects and investing in roads and bridges.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Navigating the internet for Business to Business Networks, present by Art Brown, Owner/President of LeScot Enterprises. Mr. Brown has over 35 years of experience working with small businesses, providing marketing and economic development services and training. The workshops are sponsored by the GA SBDC Network and the One Georgia Authority. The event will be held in Augusta on 20 May 2010, please call 706 721 - 4545 for more information.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please visit <http://www.sbdc.uga.edu/pdfs/mbsd.pdf> to view the statewide minority supplier directory. Please take time to be a part of the 2011 directory by completing the form on the final page and returning it the center.

\*\*\*\*\*

May Features from [USA.gov](http://USA.gov), the U.S. government's official web portal

1. Winner of USA.gov Video Contest
2. Prom Tips
3. Get Passes for National Parks
4. Healthy Vision Month
5. Memorial Day – May 31

\*\*\*\*\*

*A Minority and Female Business Vendor Fair will be held on 8 June 2010 from 10:00 - 2:00 pm in Atlanta at 1 Margaret Mitchell Square, email comments @co.fulton.ga.us to register and for additional information.*

## Other Related News & Events

### ***Business League News & Views***

**T**he Youth Entrepreneur Program of the CSRA Business League will hold its next meeting on Saturday, 22 May 2010 at the New Bethlehem Community Center from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. The program is designed to encourage and inspire youth ages 12 - 17 to think about starting and owning a business on their path to be successful in life, as well as teach leadership and social skills.. Ms Shirmaine Ivey has been named coordinator of the program and she can be reached at [shirmaineivey@business-league.org](mailto:shirmaineivey@business-league.org). Featured speakers for the Saturday program will feature State Representatives William Q. Murphy, Henry "Wayne" Howard, Earnest Smith and Gloria Frazier. We are still recruiting, so contact Ms. Ivey by email or by phone at 706 722 - 0994 to register your child or children. Up coming meeting dates are 26 June 2010, 17 July 2010, and 21 August 2010.

**A**re you a Women, Minority or Disadvantaged Business owner or a supporter, if you are, please consider purchasing a League membership. The League will Celebrate its 40th Anniversary this year and your support is vital to our mission of assisting Small Business owners in the CSRA. Join the League in 2010.

HEALTH REFORM INFORMATION - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform>

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ECONOMIC FORUM information - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy/jobsforum>.

CSRA Business League  
Board of Directors and Staff

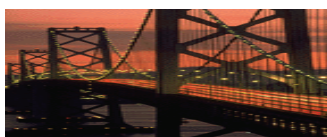
Veronica Shareef, Chairwoman  
Charlie McCann, Vice - Chairman  
Carol Martin, Secretary  
Kirkatina Banks, Treasurer  
Renata Boston  
Helen Godbee  
Earnestine Howard

Ellis Albright, President/CEO  
Elif Crawford, Staff Assistant  
Teresa Hamm, Staff Assistant  
Shirmaine Ivey, YPE Coordinator

821 12th Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30901  
Phone: 706 722 — 0994  
Fax: 706 722 — 3115  
Email: info@business-league.org  
website: www.business-league.org

**SERVICES**

Application Assistance  
Business Plan Development Assistance  
Business Incorporation  
Business Networking Meetings and Seminars  
Computer Lab  
Computer Training for Business Owners  
Copying, Fax and Mail Services  
Partnership Facilitation  
Educational Business Seminars  
Grant Research and Recommendations  
Marketing & Advertising Assistance  
Small Business Incubator Office Space  
Technology Assistance and Resources



The CSRA Business League, Inc. has been “Serving our Community with Pride” since its founding in 1970. Our mission is to support and assist small, minority and disadvantaged businesses in their efforts to become successful and prosperous. Our goal is to serve as an information clearinghouse and referral source, in addition to providing networking opportunities and technology training for small, disadvantaged and minority owned businesses.

As a 501© 3 not for profit organization, we are dedicated to providing those we serve with modern strategies and services that gives the business owner the tools to maintain a thriving and successful small business.

**Membership Corner**

Are you or have you ever been a member of the CSRA Business League, Inc.? The League is having a Membership Drive, please assist us by purchasing a League membership. Please contact us for the benefits of a League membership and take a moment to visit our revamped website at [www.business-league.org](http://www.business-league.org).

**Our Newest Member's  
\*\* Solicitor Harold Jones\*\***

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

STUDENT	\$ 25.00	NON-PROFIT	\$ 50.00
INDIVIDUAL/LLC	\$100.00	CORPORATE	\$150.00

**SINCE 1970  
THE BUSINESS LEAGUE  
HAS SERVED AS A BRIDGE  
TO SMALL BUSINESS  
SUCCESS IN THE CSRA**

**Youth Entrepreneur  
Program Meeting  
22 May 2010, 11:00 - 1:00  
New Bethlehem  
Community Center**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT  
CLUB NIGHTLIFE WITH  
CHER BEST  
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
NETWORKING EVENT

\*\*\*\*\*

40TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE CSRA  
BUSINESS LEAGUE