

Businesses Invest in Growth
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BIGNEWS

BUSINESS INVESTMENT GROWTH

Austin's First Microlending Organization

BUSINESSES GET HIGH SPEED BOOST

Nationwide ISP gives cash and free broadband to BiG Clients

BiG's Vision

BiGAUSTIN endeavors to be the best source for entrepreneurs in Central Texas to start, strengthen or expand their business operations and achieve economic success.

BiG Volunteers

Thank you for helping make this year's awards luncheon so successful!

- D'Andra Ulmer
- Paul Saldaña
- Josh Allen
- Penny McConnell
- Stephanie Hale
- Jerry Lewis
- Dave Lesko
- Anmarie McArthur
- Robert Seek

Headquarters

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- Across from Motorola)
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info@bigaustin.org



Jeannette Peten, Vicki Lyons from Covad, Anna Sanchez and Paul Saldaña



Winners of the 2004 CBEP grant from Covad

BiGAUSTIN celebrated another successful graduation for its Start Smart program on June 30, 2004. Eleven students completed the 7 week/35 hour training course. These graduates bring the total number of Smart Start graduates this year to 57. The ceremony was held at Serrano's Café & Cantina – Symphony Square on Red River.

In addition to the graduation, representatives from Covad presented BiGAUSTIN with the Covad Broadband Entrepreneur Program (CBEP) grant. Covad is a nationwide provider of integrated voice and data communications. The grant provides cash grants and broadband services to entrepreneurs selected by BiGAUSTIN.

Each microentrepreneur awarded a CBEP grant will receive a one time payment of \$500 and one year of complimentary broadband service (valued at more than \$1000). These local entrepreneurs were selected through an application process, based on their needs for high speed Internet access.

"The support that CBEP offers to our aspiring entrepreneurs is very beneficial," says Jeannette Peten, president of BiG Austin.

What Do The Winners Get?

Cash : \$500
Free Broadband Service for one year (worth \$1,000)

Who Gets It?
Ten local Micro-entrepreneurs chosen based on the technology needs of their business.

"BiGAUSTIN has provided me with invaluable resources to start my business and to keep it going. I only wish that I had known about the organization sooner. As a mentor for UT graduate law students, I recommend BiGAUSTIN's classes as a 'must' before opening a private practice," stated Covad awardee and BiGAUSTIN graduate Victoria Lewis-Dunn.

Inside: BiGIDEA Awards Luncheon winners
Awards Sponsors
Message from the President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 4** Hiring Your First Employees
11:30am - 1:00pm 4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
FREE
- 13** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Ste. 207
- 18** Financial Statements 101
11:30am - 1:00pm 4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
FREE
- 24** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 6:30 - 8:00 pm Trails at the Park
Learning Center, 815 W. Slaughter Lane
- 27** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Ste. 207

September

- 1** Financial Statements 101
11:30am - 1:00pm 4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
FREE
- 3** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 11:30 - 1:00 WorkSource Career
Center, 6505 Airport Blvd. Suite#101

September (Continued)

- 10** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Ste. 207
- 15** Credit Repair for Small Business
Owners. 11:30am - 1:00pm 4100 Ed
Bluestein Blvd. FREE
- 20** Start Smart New Venture. Mondays and
Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00 pm. 4100 Ed Bluestein
Blvd. \$250. Veterans receive a \$675 Gateway
Computer Voucher upon completion!
- 24** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Ste. 207

October

- 8** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Ste. 207
- 22** How to Start Your Business Now!
FREE! 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Ste. 207

Early Registration Specials

Register for Start Smart, our Small Business
Startup Bootcamp, by August 1st and receive
\$25 off

Volunteer Opportunities

CLASSROOM COUNSELOR

Assists with the BiGAUSTIN classes and provides feedback on student feasibility plans. Requires a time commitment of 6-9PM, once or twice a week for a three-month period and a general knowledge of financial management, marketing, operations and planning.

SMALL BUSINESS COUNSELOR

Provides one-on-one consulting on an hourly basis to BiGAUSTIN clients. Requires a focused education in one or more key functional business areas.

GUEST SPEAKER

Addresses the BiGAUSTIN students during a class or workshop on one's area of expertise as it relates to small business operations and success. A two to three hour commitment.

Contact BiGAUSTIN for more information
(512) 928-8010
or
education@bigaustin.org

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Thank You for the Referrals!

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Message from the President

By Jeannette Peten

The continued existence of one of microenterprises' most important federal programs is in jeopardy. The President's budget for the fiscal year 2005 recommended zero funding for the SBA Microloan Program. Despite the proven success of the SBA Microloan Program to cultivate entrepreneurship, the budget recommendation would effectively eliminate the SBA programs.



Senator Hillary Clinton and Jeannette Peten

As Vice Chair of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) and Chair of the Microloan Committee, I traveled to Washington, D.C. in June, to inform our Texas representatives about the importance of microenterprise to Texas entrepreneurs. Since 1999, Texas Microloan Intermediaries have loaned almost \$8,000,000 to Texan micro-entrepreneurs across the state.

AEO held a Microloan Reception in the Capital building with about 200 in attendance, including Senator Hillary Clinton (NY). The Reception was a fantastic opportunity to meet and mingle with both Democrat and Republican members of Congress, high-level legislative staff, Microloan intermediaries and supporters of the SBA Microloan Program.

Funding for the SBA Microloan Program is still in jeopardy in the Senate, and we need your help! As a key member of the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Subcommittee, support from Senator Hutchison is crucial for the SBA Microloan Program.

Send a letter today to Sen. Hutchison. Visit www.microenterpriseworks.org and enter your zip code. You will automatically be taken to a pre-written letter. This process takes less than 3 minutes. **Take Action Today!** Let Senator Hutchison know that small business is BiG business in Texas and the SBA Microloans program opens doors for Texans to pursue their American Dream.

BiG IDEA Awards Sponsors

BiG wants to thank all of the generous businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed to the success of the BiG IDEA Awards Luncheon. We hope all the sponsors enjoyed themselves at the event and were proud to see the results of the assistance they provide. Their support is crucial to the current and continued success of BiGAUSTIN's programs. Thank you sponsors and we hope to see you again next year for our 10th anniversary

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BiG IDEA Awards

Recipients of BiG IDEA Awards

The BiG IDEA Awards honored micro-entrepreneurs in five categories. The 2004 winners received up to \$4,000 in prizes. The prizes were goods, services and gifts specifically chosen to help their business grow even stronger.

Rookie of the Year



Jewell

University of Texas women's track coach Bev Kearney (left) and Austin Councilman Daryl Slusher present Christy Butler with the Rookie of the Year Award for her magazine Jewell.

Best Transition



A Turf of Beauty

Lonnie Williamson accepts the Best Transition award for his business A Turf of Beauty from Amy Simmons of Amy's Ice Cream and Paul Saldaña from Adelante Solutions.

BiG Graduate



Austin's Greener Grass

Tracy Baskin (left) from underwriter Washington Mutual presents the award for BiG Graduate to Javier Soliz for his business Austin's Greener Grass.

Most With The Least



Webcore Technologies

Austin councilwoman Betty Dunkerly (left) and Madlin Mangrum (right) of 911 Cargo, present the Most With The Least Award to Matt Scafe who was accepting on behalf of Jordan Bean from Webcore Technologies Inc.

Creative Business



Kent Cummins' Magic Camp

Michael Chargois (left) from Pavilion Lincoln Mercury and Austin Councilman Danny Thomas (right) present the award for Creative Business to Kent Cummins for Kent Cummins' Magic Camp.

Featured Sponsor: Washington Mutual

BiGAUSTIN's annual IDEA Awards luncheon would not be possible without the generous support of our many sponsors. This year, Washington Mutual underwrote the event with their \$20,000 donation.



Washington Mutual employees present BiG AUSTIN with a check for \$20,000.

Governor Comes Out to Support Small Business



Governor Rick Perry congratulated the winners of the BiG IDEA Awards on behalf of the state of Texas. He stressed the importance of micro-entrepreneurs in creating jobs and generating revenue for the state.