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LED Business Development Roundtables

By Louisiana Economic Development

BATON ROUGE—The recruitment process has started for Louisiana Economic Development's effective Small and Emerging Business Development Roundtables program, the innovative peer-to-peer learning program that brings small and emerging business leaders together for a yearlong experience of collaborative learning, problem solving, and professional development.

The program is based on the PeerSpectives™ Roundtable System developed by the Edward Lowe Foundation and considered a nationwide best practice. Participation is open to both current and prospective SEBD program participants. The roundtables convene in July and August; each cohort meets ten times throughout the year to explore best practices, share business challenges, and brainstorm solutions in a supportive environment.

'By fostering an environment where business owners can collaborate, share insights, and learn from each other, SEBD Roundtables empowers them to overcome challenges and seize new

opportunities," LED Director of Small Business Services Stephanie Hartman said. "Through these roundtables, we are building a more resilient and dynamic small business ecosystem, ensuring that businesses of all sizes have the resources and support they need to thrive.'

Through group discussions, small business leaders work collaboratively to enhance management skills, improve decision-making, and identify strengths and opportunities for improvement.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my SEBD Roundtable experience, the discussions and insights shared have been incredibly valuable, helping me gain new perspectives and ideas that have positively impacted my business," LL Builders Group CEO Louella Cleveland said. "Being surrounded by a group of like-minded business professionals who are passionate about making a positive difference has been amazing. I highly recommend participating in the Roundtable for anyone looking to network, expand their knowledge, and take away valuable lessons learned from real experiences.'

SEBD intermediaries across the state provide technical and managerial assistance through the



program and are certified to ensure a consistent experience. Current and prospective SEBD program certified companies interested in taking part in the roundtables should contact the nearest SEBD intermediary listed below for details:

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For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com





Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar Thursday, June 20, 2024, 9:00 am-10:00 am CDT Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcometo-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537 Fee: Free; registration required

Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 9:30 am-10:30 am CDT Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer addional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit https://www.eventbrite. com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, July 25, 2024, 12:00 pm-3:00 pm CDT Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at https://www. eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federalgovernment-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

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is **DBE certified** by the Louisiana UCP.



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