



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SBA Emerging 200 Initiative Class of 2009 Off to a Great Start

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - APRIL 24, 2009** - The North Florida Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announces the start of its *2009 Emerging 200 Initiative* in Jacksonville with 13 small business owners participating in the program.

Jacksonville was the runner up to the ten initial cities nationwide to participate in the inaugural SBA's *Emerging 200 Initiative (e200)* in 2008. The program has been expanded into 2009 and Jacksonville is proud to be one of the cities participating in this initiative together with an additional 14 cities across the country.

The goal of *e200* is to identify 200 inner-city businesses across the country that show a high potential for growth and to provide them the network, resources and motivation required to build a sustainable business within a designated inner-city geographic location. SBA contracted InnerCity Entrepreneurs to conduct the training aspect of SBA's Emerging 200 Initiative.

SBA North Florida District Wilfredo J. Gonzalez stated "We are extremely proud to announce the start of the e200 Class of 2009. The 2009 participants are excited and invigorated with the program." Mr. Gonzalez continued, "The North Florida District Office is very proud of the fact that Jacksonville's program was selected to participate in the 2009 E-200. Jacksonville's 13 participating small business owners represent a diverse and enthusiastic group of individuals who look forward to putting the course to work in their own businesses!"

The 13 local small business firms and their owners participating in the e200 Class of 2009 are:

- Glenda Allen, GA Janitorial Cleaning Services
  - William A. Almas, B3 Solutions, LLC
  - Rose E. Conry, Employment Resources & Solutions
  - Joseph A. Hutchinson, Xeye Incorporated
  - Larry M. Kates, Progressive Power Products, Inc.
  - Young Kim, Advanced Technology Management, Inc.
  - Falguni Kumar, Quizno's Subs
  - Chris Martoglio, The Contract Management Company
  - John G. Metzger, Universal Understanding LLC
  - Joanne T. Parks, Parks Place Daycare & Learning Center
  - John Wondracek, River City Advertising
  - Vicky M. Zelen, Zelen Risk Solutions, Inc.
  - *One firm prefers to remain anonymous*
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- Analytican F.E.A./Martha Navarro, Vice President
  - Apple Canyon Gourmet/Anna Shawver, President
  - Breakthru Communications, LLC  
Barbara Kline, Owner
  - NM Travel Health/Francine Olmstead, President
  - Santa Fe Door Store, Inc./Jerry White, President
  - Solution Werx, Inc./Lisa Adkins, President
  - StatIQ Solutions, LLC/John Whisenhunt, Owner

program and work with the CEOs and small business owners during the next eight months. Each business will produce a three-year strategic growth plan with benchmarks and performance targets for their individual business. Suzie has dedicated herself to administering this program and worked closely with the national trainer and the local SBA office to facilitate a successful program in Jacksonville.

The cornerstone of the *e200* is an in-depth educational program comprising approximately 92-100+ hours running from April through November, 2009. The first training session lasts hours. The remaining twelve training sessions planned for the program are each three hours long. The training will focus on topics such as organization management, financial management, growth strategies and management, market development, and strategic planning. The program also includes CEO mentoring sessions among the participants. Participation in the *e200* is offered free of charge to the participants. Small business executives in the *e200* initiative will participate in an intensive and comprehensive program, draw from each other's experiences and expertise, develop connections with local capital providers, and complete a growth plan by the end of the program. Companies participating in the program need to have been in business three years or more.

Along with Jacksonville, other *e200* cities for 2009 include Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Memphis, Atlanta, Chicago, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Des Moines, Detroit, Dallas, Denver, Albuquerque and Portland, Oregon.

The *e200* Jacksonville initiative is being cosponsored with: The Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business Center, Jacksonville Women's Business Center, SCORE, Small Business Development Center at the University of North Florida, Beaver Street Enterprise Center, City of Jacksonville Equal Business Opportunity & Contract Compliance Division, and Jacksonville Urban League Entrepreneurship Center.

*Cosponsorship authorization is #09-0491-22. SBA's participation in this co-sponsorship is not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products, or services of any co-sponsor or other entity. All SBA programs, services and co-sponsored activities are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance. Contact [mailto: lola.naylor@sba.gov](mailto:lola.naylor@sba.gov).*

- City of Albuquerque
- ACCION New Mexico
- Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce of NM, Inc.
- Albuquerque SCORE/Chapter 67
- Albuquerque Small Business Development Center at CNM
- CNM South Valley Small Business Development Center
- Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce
- National Association of Women Business Owners Northern New Mexico
- NM Department of Veterans' Services
- NM 8(a) & Minority Business Association
- NM Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- South Valley Economic Development Center
- The Loan Fund
- WESST