



News Release

Contact: Maria Meyers
Director, UMKC Innovation Center
816-235-6112
meyersme@ussourcelink.com



14 STATES SEND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO KC U.S.SourceLink and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City co-host seminar on innovative entrepreneurship practices

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI (JANUARY 22, 2009) —Business development representatives from 14 states—including Alabama and Alaska, Ohio and Oklahoma, Kentucky and Kansas, Missouri and Mississippi—will arrive in Kansas City on February 3 and 4, 2009, to learn more about U.S.SourceLink, its award-winning entrepreneurship tools, and its affiliates' innovative programs.

U.S.SourceLink uses a proprietary platform that integrates Web-based technology with hands-on support to identify and organize business development resources, making them readily visible and available to the small businesses that need them. To date, affiliates in 11 cities and 8 states have launched U.S.SourceLink's program to connect entrepreneurs with business-building resources in their communities.

Seminar participants include U.S.SourceLink's current and prospective affiliates from the cities, regions, and states that have employed U.S.SourceLink's online environment.

Held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the two-day conference includes presentations on

- entrepreneurial best practices from Missouri, Kansas, and North Carolina
- partnerships between business development organizations and the Federal Reserve Bank
- new Web 2.0 features available through U.S.SourceLink's *WebPlate Now!*

"This seminar underscores the innovation that's happening right here in Kansas City—around business development and entrepreneurship. We're helping folks here and across the nation create a dialogue among resource providers, businesses, communities, and even states," said Maria Meyers, director of U.S.SourceLink and of the UMKC Innovation Center at the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration.

Participants will learn how to develop relationships for business development, how to maximize collaborative opportunities to benefit small businesses, and even how to leverage tax credits to create a culture of entrepreneurship.

About U.S.SourceLink

The U.S.SourceLink model has a proven track record of delivering to local communities in Kansas City, as KCSOURCELINK, in St. Louis, as STLSOURCELINK, and across the nation. NetWork Kansas, MOSOURCELINK, and the MyBiz Network connect the resources across the states of Kansas, Missouri, and Mississippi. U.S. SourceLink also powers the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership in Milwaukee and the Urban League Entrepreneurship Centers, currently operating in Kansas City, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Jacksonville.

KCSourceLink was the first implementation of the U.S.SourceLink model. It was developed in Kansas City in 2003 by the UMKC Innovation Center at the Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, in partnership with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the U.S.Small Business Administration.

Recent Recognition for the SourceLink Model

- 2008 Excellence in Economic Development in Entrepreneurship Honorable Mention Award, International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
- 2007 Excellence in Economic Development Award for Enhancing Regional Competitiveness, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
- 2007 Multi-Year Economic Development Program Award, IEDC

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