



DCDC NEWS

DeWitt County Development Council Newsletter

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A Busy Summer...

It has been a busy summer for DeWitt County! Most, if not all the kids are back in school and everyone seems concentrating on enjoying the last of the warm weather. Before long we all will be gearing up for the Holiday Season. Take a few minutes and review what DCDC has been up to and what we are working on. The CICEO has kicked off with its first class of students. The City of Clinton and DCDC have partnered to bring the Clinton Small Business Bootcamp. Our quarterly Leaders mixer is just around the corner. We can't forget it is time for First National Bank and Trust REV program. Read all about these and other news.....

www.dcdc-illinois.net

About the Bootcamp Program...

Statistics show that most business growth in any community occurs in smaller businesses. Statistics also show that most business failures are a result of the lack of business planning. The Clinton Bootcamp program walks participants through individual components of business planning, with the idea of making smarter and stronger business owners. Some may decide against starting their own business, and some may decide now isn't their time to open- that's OK. The idea is to create stronger and smarter businesses, and help individuals realize if and when they can pull the trigger on opening their dream. Where the business is located isn't important to the program- there's enough information to share!

The program starts in the fall of 2019 for five weeks. Classes meet from 6-9pm on Wednesday evenings at the Clinton City Hall, 118 W. Washington St. 2nd floor, Clinton. Course books are provided, speakers are engaging, snacks are encouraged, and thoughts are provoked. Participants discover competition is a great thing, entrepreneurs are all different, and there is a huge network of people just like them to interact with. Classes are free for everyone and open to anyone, regardless of residency, stage in business planning, or even age of existing business.



The Bootcamp Grant..

The purpose of this competition is to encourage the development and startup of businesses in our community. Individuals who demonstrate they are in the process of starting a new business in Clinton are eligible to apply for a grant of \$5,000 as part of the Bootcamp program. The grant is a reimbursable grant that goes towards payments of rent/mortgage and/or utility bills for a storefront business within the Downtown Clinton limits. The grant is funded through the generosity of the City of Clinton. Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements may present their business plan to a panel of judges during the 5th week of the Bootcamp Program. The judges may recommend the grant to one of the applicants... or they may not. Are you ready to take the next step to open your business?



Leaders Luncheon

We are mixing up a bit for Fall, instead of our traditional Leaders Breakfast, we are going to try out Leaders Luncheon. The Luncheon is scheduled for Thurs. Sept 12th, Noon, at Monical's Pizza in Clinton.

We will be hosting Melanie Brown, the Central Illinois CEO Facilitator. Melanie will discuss the CEO program and her goals for their first year. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet her yet, this will be a great opportunity to introduce yourself.



Other News

- Now open, Tractor Supply and Goodwill which occupy the former Clinton Walmart location. .
- Farmer City's Dollar General opened its new expanded location on Route 54. .
- Make sure your calendar is marked for Apple N' Pork, September 28 & 29.
- It isn't too early to start planning your Small Business Saturday or Holiday marketing plan.

REV-Ignite Your Business

First National Bank and Trust and the DeWitt County Development Council will again team up to host REV, a pitch competition for entrepreneurs and businesses. We are now accepting applications for the event, which will be held on Nov. 1 at the bank. Contestants will be judged on their pitch, marketing, personal investment level, and exit strategy. Interested in applying or know someone who might be? Check out our website for additional information. www.dcdc-illinois.net



Revolving Loan Fund

DCDC has funds available to help you with your business! The RLF, is stop gap financing that can help with business start-up or business expansion. More information is available on the DCDC website or contact us to help to determine your eligibility! www.dcdc-illinois.net

A Message From Melanie Brown, CICEO Facilitator

Summer has come to an end and it is time to launch the start of the Central Illinois CEO (CICEO) program! Eleven students from Warrensburg-Latham, Clinton, Maroa-Forsyth and Farmer City will be meeting daily with local businesses and key leaders in the surrounding communities in a non-traditional classroom, hands-on experience environment. The program is designed to teach them how to start their own business as well as to show them the business opportunities right here in the communities in which they live. If you would like to get involved with the program as a speaker, mentor, invite us in for a business tour or become an investor, please contact Melanie Brown, the program facilitator at facilitator@centralillinoisceo.com

CENTRAL ILLINOIS 

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
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Contact DeWitt County Development Council

P.O. Box 376

Clinton, IL 61727

Email: info@dcdc-illinois.net

Phone: (217) 935- 5271