



News Release



Release Date: March 7, 2011
Release Number: NR 2011-11

Contact: Sherree Stratton 612-370-2325
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/mn

SBA, Mayor Rybak Announce New Initiative to Boost Small Business Growth in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS – SBA District Director Nancy Libersky and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak announced today the details of a new SBA initiative to help increase growth opportunities for Minneapolis small businesses.

Since 2008, the e200 Emerging Leaders initiative has helped more than 600 promising small business owners across the country grow their businesses with support, resources and skills to succeed. Developed by SBA, e200 offers qualified small business owners powerful benefits including innovative strategies to grow, acquire financing, access new markets and leverage networking. Minneapolis has been selected as one of the newest cities to host e200 for 2011.

The eight-month program offers approximately 100 hours of training per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors and develop connections with their peers, city leaders, and financial communities. Classes begin the week of April 18th at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in downtown Minneapolis and will be held every other week through early November.

Local recruitment for the 2011 training cycle begins today. Small businesses that are located in Minneapolis, generate revenues between \$400,000 and \$10 million, and have been in business for at least three years, are eligible to participate. Interested small business owners are invited to learn more about the initiative by contacting the SBA office at 612-370-2312 (Cindy Collett or cynthia.collett@sba.gov).

SBA and the City of Minneapolis have partnered with seven leading Minnesota business organizations to help launch this major initiative: The SCORE Association; Minnesota Small Business Development Centers; Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA); the City of Minneapolis; North Hennepin Community College; Federal Executive Board of Minnesota and the FEB's Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Council (SADBOC); the Office for Business & Community Economic Development, University of Minnesota and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

For more information about the e200 initiative, visit the SBA website at www.sba.gov/e200.

###