



Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat

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PRESS RELEASE

Entrepreneur Express—Resources to Help Small Businesses Grow

WYTHEVILLE—The Joint IDA, along with other local sponsors, is participating in a state effort to bring resources to Wythe and Bland counties that will help business owners and potential entrepreneurs establish and grow their businesses. *Entrepreneur Express: Moving Your Business Forward* is a workshop designed to provide information on available business resources and practical, hands-on training covering key elements of business practice. The event will be held **April 10 from 9:00 until noon at the Wytheville Meeting Center**, 333 Community Center Boulevard, next to Wytheville Community College. For registration information, visit www.wytheida.org/files/EEExpress.pdf. Admission is free and lunch will be provided to those who have preregistered.

The Joint IDA views early stage and small companies as a vital part of our local economy and is pleased to support Entrepreneur Express, which has been successful in other localities across the Commonwealth, with over 800 Virginians having already participated. This partnership of governmental and private organizations supporting small business growth offers business owners an efficient and cost effective way to learn about resources available from a range of service providers. Workshop segments include: how to start and operate a business, growing an existing business, marketing strategies, financing, and available support resources. Participants receive a resource directory that provides “how to” information for many types of enterprises including tourism-related businesses, agricultural businesses, and retail operations.

Organizations partnering to offer this series of workshops supporting entrepreneurial efforts throughout the Commonwealth include the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network, SCORE, the Virginia Economic Bridge, the Virginia Electronic Technology Center, the Virginia Economic Developers Association, the Virginia Business Incubator Association, the Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Local sponsors in addition to the Joint IDA are Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, Bland County Economic Development Authority, and Southwest Regional Enterprise Center.

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Release Date: March 26, 2008

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