



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Incubator to Build a Better Small Business in Six Months

HOUSTON (Oct. 22, 2009) – The Business Enterprise Academy® (BEA), a six-month entrepreneurial incubator and Texas Business Alliance (TBA) core small business development program, will begin on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009 and end April 20, 2010. Class members will meet twice per month. Fifteen small business owners will make up each class. Business owners that have been in operation from six months to three years and are interested in being considered for the class should apply on the TBA Web site through Friday, Oct. 30, 2009.

"Small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms and employ over half of all U.S. workers, according to the Small Business Administration," said TBA Founder and CEO Jeffrey L. Boney. "With BEA, our goal is help small businesses to be sustainable and build their capacity for larger contracting opportunities. BEA is our primary program. Repeatedly, minority- and women-owned businesses are being passed over for contracts. TBA has a goal to reverse that trend by educating this group on the non-negotiable requirements of corporate and governmental entities."

BEA is an innovative training program with accountability checkpoints covering the topics of business development, financial management, infrastructure management, marketing, communications, and project management. BEA will culminate with a real-life RFP submission capstone project and a graduation ceremony.

Participants successfully completing the BEA and meeting additional criteria may be included among TBA's "BEA Qualified Supplier" pool and receive the organization's recommendation for contractual opportunities. Participants also are more likely to succeed as 87 percent of small business incubator program graduates stay in business.

BEA is sponsored by Capital One Bank, Lane Staffing, Inc., and H-E-B.

Applications may be accessed on www.texasbusinessalliance.org ("Programs" page). For information, please call 281.213.9554.

To learn more about the BEA and TBA, the public is invited to attend the TBA membership mixer on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the historic ISIS Houston downtown (Houston's first silent movie theater 1913-1929), 1010 Prairie Street, Houston, TX 77002. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Food and beverages are included. Register on the TBA Web site ("Calendar" page).

About Texas Business Alliance

A member-driven, solutions oriented, 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, with a mission to equip minority- and women-owned businesses to be qualified suppliers, ready to compete for public, private and international opportunities through progressive development, and specialized training. Its vision is to strengthen the Texas economy and spur job creation by expanding minority- and women-owned businesses, and encouraging youth entrepreneurship. Chapter organizations are being pursued in Dallas/Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Austin and El Paso. Visit www.texasbusinessalliance.org for more details or call 281.213.9554.

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