



Building Bridges for Business
through Access, Information
& Partnerships

Pittsburgh, PA – November 9, 2010 — Building Bridges for Business launch event explains the power of Leveraging Economic Partnerships

Building Bridges for Business hosted a more than sold out launch event at the Capital Grille last evening. Leaders in Government, Universities, City Council, Investors, Banks, and Networking Groups in Pittsburgh attended.

"The event sponsored by media partner, Pittsburgh Business Times, was a great success. We were thrilled to have so many resources for Pittsburgh business in one room." said Ed Gainey, Coordinator of Economic Development for the City of Pittsburgh.

Building Bridges for Business will further advance economic development by supporting businesses providing unprecedented access to required resources. Williams Peduto, Pittsburgh City Council, said, "networking gives small businesses the opportunity to learn about, bid on and help create government contracts."

"The vision for the Building Bridges community is an environment where businesses can grow and advance themselves in their field, support other business owners, and develop as entrepreneurs giving back to their community, stated founder Linda Handley, an entrepreneur, author and business advisor.

"Pittsburgh has an exceptional variety of excellent sources to start, grow and build a successful business. Getting business to the right source at the right time is our goal at Building Bridges for Business. The right advice and business guidance is crucial for long term success. Timing is everything in business and this is the time to encourage growth and sustainability in our region," stated JoAnn R. Forester, BBB Board member, 30 plus year business owner of S. I. Business and 2010 YWCA Tribute to Women Honoree.

Handley, a successful business owner, offers these 5 business resources that are showcased on the Building Bridges for Business website. If you are a small business owner in Pittsburgh, PA looking for support and small business resources, this list will help you get started in the right direction.

1. URA (<http://www.ura.org/>) – The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. This organization is committed to creating jobs and improving Pittsburgh businesses and neighborhoods. The Business Development Center within the URA Agency offers small business owners a group of loan programs.
2. SBA (<http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/pa/pitt/>) – U.S. Small Business Association. The SBA has helping small business owners since 1953 by offering loans, contracts, counseling sessions, and other forms of assistance. The Pittsburgh District Office is located downtown.
3. Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (<http://www.entrepreneur.pitt.edu/>) – The Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence is at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh. The program has been helping businesses since 1995 with leading edge educational programs and individual consulting.
4. Small Business Development Center Duquesne University (<http://www.sbdc.duq.edu/>) The SBDC offers free and confidential services and training workshops for small business owners in South Western Pennsylvania.
5. Bridgeway Capital (<http://bridgewaycapital.org>) Bridgeway Capital offers business owners capital and tools for business growth. The organization has been providing unconventional financing for 18 years.

Handley created Building Bridges for Business based on the need she and others saw in the area. Building Bridges for Business goal is to create an organization that truly serves business owners and entrepreneurs with resources that they can use, understanding that small and start up business owners had limited finances.

BBB members are expected to increase their sales and revenue as a direct result of their affiliation with the Building Bridges. Business owners come to Building Bridges for many reasons, mostly to gain access to the FREE resources and to network and increase their business contacts. Danika Wukich, Officer at PNC said, “congratulations on your launch. The Building Bridges for Business launch turnout was a testament to your involvement in the Pittsburgh business community.”

There is no fee or yearly membership rate to join as a general member of Building Bridges for Business. That is one of the major factors that differentiates BBB from other business and networking groups. Visit www.BuildingBridgesForBusiness for a full listing of educational opportunities and events.

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