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New Initiative Helps Turn Innovative Ideas Into Successful Businesses

Start-Up Now To Teach Broward Residents How To Launch Their Own Company

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – June 30, 2016 – Each year, thousands of individuals across the nation come up with innovative ideas and creative products, but lack the experience or guidance to turn them into successful business ventures. In an effort to support regional entrepreneurial development in Broward County, CareerSource Broward (CSBD) has created a brand new initiative called Start-Up Now designed to help citizens develop a solid plan and learn what it takes to build a thriving business – all at no cost.

Start-Up Now, which is administered by CSBD in partnership with the Innovation Hub @ Broward College and funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, is a six- to seven-month entrepreneurial program that identifies viable products and services in order to move them to market as soon as possible. The program includes Lean Launchpad®, a proven methodology used by start-ups and established companies such as Dropbox, Groupon, IGN Entertainment and Rackspace. Selected finalists who complete the program will be given office space at the Innovation Hub @ Broward College, where they will be able to use a variety of tools and resources to expand their business.

"The goal of Start-Up Now is to give participants the professional support and knowledge they need to start a profitable business," said Mason C. Jackson, President/CEO of CareerSource Broward. "This dynamic program is a great way to connect with seasoned entrepreneurs who bring a lifetime of experience that can help lay the foundation for a prosperous company."

Start-Up Now is open to anyone in Broward County who is considering starting their own business or has started their own company within the past year. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and able to commit up to 20 hours a week of program-related work outside of classroom time. Full eligibility requirements can be found by [clicking here](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, July 29, 2016.

"Start-Up Now is an example of the deep commitment the Innovation Hub has made to the South Florida start-up community," said Innovation Hub @ Broward College director Enrique Triay. "The curriculum for this accelerator program will not only give participants the opportunity to earn college credit toward our entrepreneurship certificate, but will also connect them to the Innovation Hub's solid network of advisors, industry contacts, community and key business catalysts, both in Broward County and across the state."

To learn how to submit an application or for more information about Start-up Now, visit www.careersourcebroward.com/startupnow or email Douglas Sáenz, Program Manager, at startupnow@careersourcebroward.com.

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About CareerSource Broward

CareerSource Broward (CSBD), the administrative entity of the Broward Workforce Development Board, is a federally-funded, locally controlled organization that provides innovative employment solutions and quality workforce services to businesses and individuals in Broward County. These services are delivered through three strategically located career centers, which provide individual assistance with the Employ Florida Marketplace, job placement services, career coaching and other employment-related needs. For more information, please visit www.careersourcebroward.com, [facebook.com/CareerSourceBroward](https://www.facebook.com/CareerSourceBroward) or follow @CareerSourceBD on Twitter.