



Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence



Sponsored by:
Appalachian Regional Commission
University of North Alabama

An award valued at \$10,000 will be made for outstanding accomplishment in entrepreneurial development in the Appalachian Region.

Program Description

The Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence seeks applications from throughout the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Region for innovative, creative, and visionary approaches to entrepreneurial development. Applications will be received at the University of North Alabama, Florence, Alabama. Applications will be reviewed by the Jerry W. Davis Award Committee who will choose a winner on an annual basis. The committee consists of members from the ARC Region with an intimate knowledge of entrepreneurial development and its various components.

ELGIBLE CATEGORIES

The annual Award will be provided to individuals who demonstrate outstanding passion and success in the field of entrepreneurial development. Eligible categories of activities include:

- 1. Business Incubation and Technical Assistance** - Nurturing new businesses by creating technical assistance networks through business incubators, association development, and private sector resources;
- 2. Entrepreneurial Education** - Educating current and future entrepreneurs through new training programs in middle schools, high schools, and community colleges and universities;
- 3. Entrepreneurial Development Financing** - Improving access to investment capital for local businesses by developing new venture capital funds, subordinated debt funds, and micro-credit lending programs
- 4. Other Innovative Entrepreneurial Development Activities**

For more information on ARC's activities in the field of entrepreneurship, visit www.arc.gov/entrepreneurship

ELGIBLE APPLICANTS

Individuals working with non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and public and private, educational institutions, and financial institutions located in the ARC Region are eligible to apply. Visit www.arc.gov for a listing of counties in the ARC Region.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER

The winner of the Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence will be announced at the ARC Conference in October (In 2007: October 23-24).

USE OF AWARD

The cash award will be used for approved entrepreneurial development activities in the community of the winner. Eligible uses of award funding include:

- 1. Business Incubation and Technical Assistance** - Nurturing new businesses by creating technical assistance networks through business incubators, association development, and private sector resources;
- 2. Entrepreneurial Education** - Educating current and future entrepreneurs through new

training programs in middle schools, high schools, and community colleges and universities;

3. Entrepreneurial Development Financing - Improving access to investment capital for local businesses by developing new venture capital funds, subordinated debt funds, and micro-credit lending programs
4. Other Innovative Entrepreneurial Development Activities

Recipients of the Jerry W. Davis Award may be affiliated with either public or private sector organizations. However, only public sector and non-profit entities may receive the proceeds of the cash award. Private sector recipients of the Award may donate the award proceeds to affiliated non-profit or public sector partners.

SUBMISSION

Applications must be received at the University of North Alabama by 5:00 pm, September 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The University of North Alabama in partnership with the Appalachian Regional commission has developed the Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence competition to recognize outstanding accomplishment in entrepreneurial development. Jerry W. Davis led the development of the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center located in Florence, Alabama, from one facility to five on four campuses. The SEC, a mixed used business incubator, fostered the creation of over one hundred businesses and twelve hundred jobs. Under Jerry's leadership, since it opened in 1992, 91 % of companies started in the SEC are still in business. Additionally, Jerry developed and promoted youth entrepreneurial education programs, started a successful Culinary Center, and actively participated in many other entrepreneurial development activities in the Shoals Area. He served as mentor to other incubator managers, was a founding member of the Alabama Business Incubation Network, the Tennessee Valley Authority Incubator Managers Association, and was active in ARC entrepreneurial development initiatives. This award is established in his name to honor his work, honor others doing similar work, and to promote excellence in entrepreneurial development.

APPLICATION

Organizational Information

Include name, location, contact information, purpose of organization, organizational structure, and other pertinent information.

Narrative

Applicant will send a 2-3 page narrative describing an innovative approach to entrepreneurial development. Should include purpose of project or program, history, unique partnerships, creative funding, sustainability, outcomes, and successes. Please attach 8 copies of each set for the selection committee. E-mail attachments will not be accepted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

**For more information on the Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence,
please contact:**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
UNA Box 5059
One Harrison Plaza
Florence, Alabama 35632-0001
(256) 765-4670**

Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence 2007

(Example of Information for Cover Page)

Project Title: _____

Organization/Applicant: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS BY 5:00 p.m., SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

to

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

UNA Box 5059

One Harrison Plaza

Florence, Alabama 35632-0001

Call (256) 765-4670 for more information