

NEWS RELEASE

College of Commerce and Business Administration

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
414 Wohlers Hall, 1206 South Sixth Street
Champaign IL 61820
www.cba.uiuc.edu

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For more information contact:

Ginny Hudak-David, Director, Commerce Communications
217-244-8146; hudakdav@uiuc.edu

Center for Enterprise Development Established

Champaign, Ill. — Starting February 18th, the Center for Enterprise Development (CED) will offer professional consulting and business research assistance to current and potential occupants of the University of Illinois Research Park and Incubator (scheduled to open in November). Assistance will also be available to start-up ventures initiated by UIUC faculty and students. Sponsored by the College of Commerce and Business Administration, CED will be coordinated through the College's Office for Strategic Business Initiatives (OSBI).

Through the Center, students from the Illinois MBA Program, together with graduate students from other university academic programs, will provide professional services for entrepreneurs and those planning to start their own businesses. Services will include preliminary competitive and marketing analysis and feasibility studies as initial steps in the creation of a business plan. CED student affiliates are trained to conduct technology, market, and competitive analyses. They will conduct such analyses for potential start-ups and will research specific questions raised by potential entrepreneurs. More comprehensive services — such as comprehensive market or financial analyses or full business plan preparation — may be directed to OSBI's regular consulting section.

In addition to the walk-in services described above, CED will sponsor periodic seminars, workshops, and networking events to serve the needs of the university entrepreneurial community. CED is also planning to establish an online resource library for entrepreneurs.

In announcing this service for entrepreneurs, Avijit Ghosh, dean of CCBA, noted that "CED is the first of the College's many new initiatives to assist the University's technology commercialization efforts. We are very happy to be a part of the Research Park and Incubator and are appreciative of the support of the campus leadership in this initiative."

The Center will be housed in the administrative suite of the Director of the University's Research Park and Incubator at 1816 South Oak Street, Champaign, IL. Interested parties can reach CED between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. by calling 217-333-4122 or by sending email to CED@cba.uiuc.edu.

Nationally recognized as one of the leading business schools, the College of Commerce and Business Administration has outstanding programs in accounting, business, economics, and finance. The college enrolls more than 3,000 undergraduates, 700 MBA and master's students, and 175 doctoral candidates from all 50 states and more than 30 countries worldwide.

Notes to the editor:

Paul Magelli is the director of OSBI. He may be reached at 217-244-3407 for additional information about CED or OSBI.

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