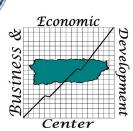
Annual Report 2011-2012

Business and Economic Development Center



College of Business Administration
University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus
Technical Assistance Project No. 01-66-14096



Clients, Partners and Colleagues:

I hereby present you with the BEDC's June 2012 Annual Report which depicts the highlights of another year of successfully engaging the resources of UPRM to help our clients retain or create jobs, promote economic growth and become more resilient.

Through its activities the Center promoted the expansion of the local entrepreneurial base; provided individual economic development assistance to governmental or nonprofit entities; delivered capacity building professional development to 1,115 practitioners and entrepreneurs; strengthened the innovation ecosystem and collaborated in advancing the goal of developing a thriving clean energy cluster on the Island. In summary, our activities during the past year have the potential to help retain 542 jobs, create around 379 new jobs opportunities as well as generating \$9.310 million in public and \$6.943 million in private investment.

We dedicate these accomplishments to our internal and external network of collaborators and to the private and public sector officials and faculty that enthusiastically work to improve the economic opportunities of our fellow citizens.

We are particularly grateful to the Economic Development Administration of the US Department of Commerce, our main sponsor and partner throughout the years, for facilitating by their continued support the mobilization of university resources to promote economic development.

Joseph Vego

José I. Vega Torres, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator and Project Director



Table of Content

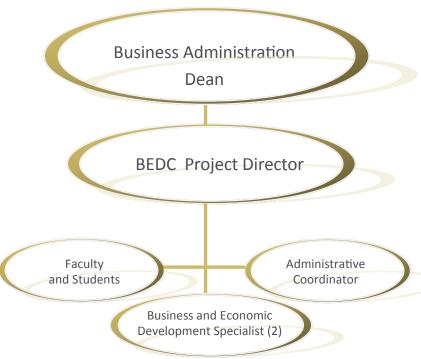
INTRODUCTION2
ENTREPRENEURIAL BASE3
BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITIONS3
INCUBATION MODEL FOR STARTUPS4
INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES/CURRICULA4
ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC AND NON PROFITS5
COMMERCIALIZATION OF DISCOVERIES6
POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT6
CLEAN ENERGY CLUSTER7
MEDIA COVERAGE8

Introduction:

The Economic Development University Center (EDUC) operates from the Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) of the State University System that comprises three main campuses and eight university colleges.

The Mayagüez Campus encompasses the Schools of Engineering, Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, and Business Administration as well as the Agricultural Extension Service, Sea Grant Program and Continuing Education community outreach programs. The Campus is recognized as a land grant, space grant, and sea grant university.

The EDUC plays an instrumental role in the efforts undertaken by the Mayagüez Campus to facilitate and promote economic development activities for the entire Island. Services are delivered by staff and a pool of faculty and students with appropriate expertise.





The staff is comprised of qualified professionals with relevant expertise and a demonstrated capacity to provide quality assistance and integrating other university technical resources.

Promotion of a Strong Local Entrepreneurial Base:







1,115 Attendees



More than 15 Partners

Some of the Featured Capacity Building Events

- •The ABC's of Required Permits Risk Management in Business• Social Networks as Promotional Allies•
 - •Successful Technology Ventures Business Legal Structures An Entrepreneurship Journey•
 - •Labor Legislation Starting a Business Employee Certification for Food Safety•
 - Entrepreneurial Drive Basic on Intellectual Property• Insurance in Risk Management •

Business Plan Competitions:

The BEDC promotes participation in several national business plan competitions. Besides the various coaching workshops, individual assistance is provided to entrepreneurs that decide to compete for recognition, venture capital, and cash prizes to jumpstart their ventures.



Cutting Edge Superconductors, Inc. obtained first place in the national business plan competition of EnterPrize 2011 gaining media coverage in major newspapers. CES also obtained second place in the InnoVenture 2012 Technology-based Business Plan Competition. This technology venture is driven by a patented new method of fabricating the required superconducting wires to power the magnetic fields for the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment .



Collect Company was one of the 10 business idea competition winners, gaining a seed investment prize of \$1,000 and in kind support such as technical assistance and mentoring from top business persons. Collect Company was founded by students and proposes a mobile technology app to provide clients a food-ordering alternative that manages time efficiently.

Business Incubation Model for Startups:



The BDEC in collaboration with the Office Administration Institute recently established the **Business Support Center** (BSC) to implement a business incubator model for students-entrepreneurs and faculty-entrepreneurs. The BSC initial services focuses on providing a supportive environment for start up enterprises.

Informational Resources and Curricula:

Informational sheets and online resources on topics pertinent to starting and managing a small business and promoting an entrepreneurial mindset are periodically developed and posted on the webpage. Currently linkages to procurement and export assistance resources are being developed.

Short courses for continuing education of development practitioners are regularly updated. Technology tools such as online delivery of the how to start a small business course were mplemented.

A new curricular sequence for intellectual property management and commercialization accessible to student and faculty from all disciplines is under evaluation. As part of this initiative two courses: Business Planning and Commercialization Strategies for Technology Ventures and Intellectual Property for Scientist and Engineers were developed and are being piloted during this semester.







Experienced entrepreneurs provide mentoring to student-entrepreneurs

Economic Development Assistance to Public Units and Non Profits:

This component seeks to provide technical advice or support and applied research services to public units and non-profit organizations so that they can play an effective role in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and promote balanced growth throughout the geographical areas based on regional core capabilities.



The Center provided technical support to Huella Colegial, a nonprofit profit enterprise with a dual purpose: revitalization of the downtown business district and the desire of the UPRM's academic authorities to explore the idea of having an enterprise lab where students could practice the business concepts they learn in the classroom.



With the UPRM's **Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)** Global Organization Chapter and Acción Social, Inc. (nonprofit organization) a capacity building congress addressing over 100 new or expanding small businesses was launched. Interest from owners was such that a follow up program is now underway.



As part of the small business week the BEDC co hosted with the students of the **Entrepreneurial Exhibition of Business Ideas**. In the exhibition a total of 40 business ideas of the students were presented to colleagues, potential customers and investors and a panel of judges comprised by faculty of the business school.



Twenty two social entrepreneurs from around the Island, Colombia and Ohio are currently enrolled in the novel online **Certificate in Nonprofit Enterprise Management** that is offered in conjunction with the continuing education unit based on curriculum developed by staff and faculty affiliated to the Center.

Individualized Counseling to 116 Entrepreneurs 100% satisfaction rate

Commercialization of Discoveries:

This component is aimed at facilitating the transition to a knowledge economy by promoting the commercialization of products and services based on discoveries by scientists affiliated to the UPR system and their business partners.









The campus wide initiative denominated: *University Innovation: from the laboratory to the marketplace* that seeks to promote the commercialization of discoveries and advance services by scientists and students from across the disciplines that have potential to evolve into technology led enterprises continues to gain momentum and prospects.



Potential Impact on Employment and Investment:



Development of a Clean Energy Cluster:



Faculty of the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus internationally recognized for their research in energy matters supported by the Center developed the Puerto Rico Renewable Energy Self Sufficiency Road Map



The BDEC Co Hosted the National Forum for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Opportunities for Economic and Business Development. A group of 84 practitioners and academics participated in the Forum. This forum was an effort of collaboration between the Center, COHEMIS, PRTEC and the College of Engineers and Surveyors of Puerto Rico.





84 Entrepreneurs, Practitioners and Academic in Attendance

Sustainable Energy
Roadmap (SuERo) for
Puerto Rico



Media Coverage:

MCKER

Celebran congreso de autogestión empresarial

Por Mariam Ludim Rosa Vélez (mariamludim@uprm.edu) PRENSA RUM

viernos, 13 de enero de 2012

La Facultad de Administración de Empresas (ADEM) del Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (RUM) fue sede del Primer Congreso de Autogestión Empresarial denominado Encaminando al Oeste, una iniciativa organizada por la asociación estudiantil Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). El propósito principal de la actividad, fue capacitar a unos 150 comerciantes afiliados al grupo comunitario Acción Social, en temas relacionados con el manejo de sus nuevos negocios.

Según explicó el doctor José I. Vega, director del Centro de Negocios y Desarrollo Empresarial de ADEM, durante esta primera jornada educativa, los participantes recibieron talleres en las áreas de Recursos Humanos, Contabilidad y Mercadeo.

"La intención es que ellos puedan expandir su empresa y crear más empleos en la región oeste.. Pensamos que tendremos otras actividades de seguimiento, ayudándolos a través de herramientas de desarrollo", indicó Vega, quien además es el consejero de SIFE.

Coincidió el profesor Héctor Bravo Vick, decano de ADEM, quien aseguró que abrir las puertas para adiestrar a estos comerciantes emergentes, forma parte de la razón de ser de la Facultad que dirige.

Con la experiencia de nuestros profesores investigadores ayudamos a estos pequeños negocios en unos momentos dados de crisis económica y así impactamos a esas personas dentro de nuestro ámbito y estamos cumpliendo con la misión del Colegio de Administración de Empresas", sostuvo.

Los estudiantes de SIFE-RUM sirvieron como enlace entre el Colegio de Empresas y Acción Social para facilitar la experiencia de educación continua



17 AL 23 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2011 - VISION 3





12 AL 16 DE ABRIL DE 2012

ESTA SEMANA

Establecen vivero de empresas agrícolas



AGENDA EMPRESARIAL Nuevas herramientas para iniciar un negocio

ESTA SEMANA >>>

"Esta Facultad (ADEM) a fraves de Centro y Desarrolla Económico que buscaninacion pequeño negacio con los procesos de permisorio procesos de permisorio de la compositiva del

"Esta Facultad (ADEM) a través del Centro y Desarrollo Económico quiere ser un instrumento de desarrollo empresarial de la región y Puerto Rico. Esa es nuestra misión" subrayó Vega Torres.





Business and Economic Development Center University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez

P.O. BOX 9000, Mayagüez P.R. 00680 (787) 832-4040 Ext. 5591 Website: cnde.uprm.edu José I. Vega Torres, Ph.D.—Project Director Email: jose.vega18@upr.edu