2012 - 2013

Business & Economic

Development

Center











Annual Report

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

Clients, Partners and Colleagues:

I hereby present you with the BEDC's August 2013 Annual Report which depicts the highlights of another year of successfully engaging the resources of University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (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 1,047 practitioners and entrepreneurs; strengthened the innovation ecosystem and collaborated in advancing the goal of developing a thriving clean energy cluster on the



past year have the potential to help retain 413 jobs, create around 328 new jobs opportunities as well as generating \$4.300 million in public and \$6.213 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.

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José I. Vega Torres, Ph.D.

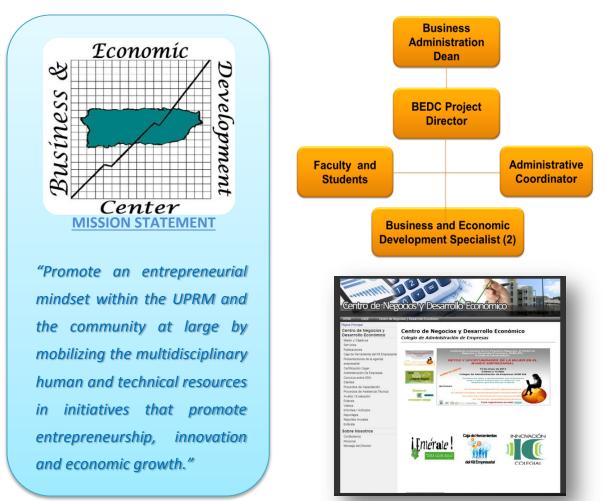
Principal Investigator and Project Director

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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. Frequently, initiatives are undertaken in close collaboration with internal and external partners of the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem.



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

Capacity Building



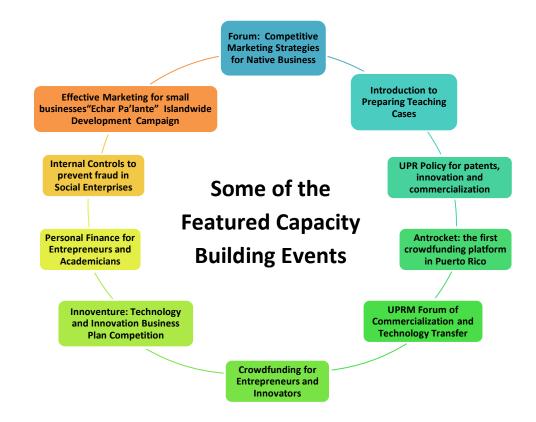
30 capacity building events throughout the Year



1,047 Attendees



More than 20 internal and external partners engaged



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. Assistance was provided to several clients participating in the Enterprize 2012 Business Plan Competition and "Impulso Empresarial" elevator pitch business contest. As a result, there were ten submittals to Enterprize and four to the elevator pitch contest. Two submittals were selected among the top 15 semi-finalists to Enterprize and two reached the finals of "Impulso Empresarial".



Mango Technika was selected for the transactional technology special prize of \$25,000 in the Enterprise 2012 business plan competition. The prize was sponsored by Evertec, a potential licensee of the technology being developed by the recent startup company created by computer engineering graduates.

Business Incubation Model for Startups:

The interdisciplinary resources to accelerate startups by campus entrepreneurs are now aligned as a result of the BEDC efforts to develop and implement a mix of support services to promote new businesses. Interdisciplinary faculty, office space and external collaborators comprise now a coherent ecosystem to support an entrepreneurial mindset and innovation.









Informational Resources and Curricula:

The BEDC launched the new edition of the publication "How to Start a Small Business in Puerto Rico" 2013. Faculty of the Business School, Center's staff and students collaborated in this new edition. This publication has converted on the standard textbook for entrepreneurial education in in many institutions of higher education and several mayor governmental entrepreneurial initiatives. Collaborating faculty and staff of the Center are continuously developing and improving online resources to comprise the web based Business Kit Toolbox companion to the paperback edition of the publication.



During this year the MBA program of the Business School developed a new course of business planning and commercialization strategies for technology ventures. The School of Business and the School of Engineering are engaged now in improving curriculum and testing new courses and methodologies to promote intellectual property protection and commercialization strategies for technology ventures.



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 BEDC staffs were featured as guest speakers on the National Institute for Capacity Building of the Third Sector, a two day event to provide development tools for hundreds of community development practitioners.

The Business School hosted the celebration of the 3rd Congress of Technology Centers of the Western Region: Promoting Social Enterprise and Small Business. The event was collaboration with the Center for Puerto Rico, a nonprofit organization. Speakers in the Congress comprised staff of the BEDC and faculty of the Business School.







The BDEC collaborated with "Asesores Financieros Comunitarios", a nonprofit organization that provides workshops on management aspects of community development organizations. It also continues to work very closely in the development and delivery of courses targeting social enterprises offered by the Continuing Education Division.



Twenty eight high school students from around the Island participated in the Business Summer Camp 2013 that is offered by School Business Continuing Education in collaboration with ENACTUS RUM, student's organizations and the BEDC. This entrepreneur camp was for high school students who were interested in studying entrepreneurship and in developing businesses.





Also, in collaboration with the School of Business and Puerto Rico Entrepreneurial Action Us (ENACTUS) Global Organization Chapter a two day Enactus Regional Conference was held. Over 55 students, faculty and collaborators from seven universities from around the Island participated in the conferences which sought to establish interuniversity collaborative in support of community development initiatives led by undergraduates from across the disciplines.







Over 10 entities impacted during the year











Commercialization Of Discoveries

The BEDC with the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office at Research and Development Center continued collaborating this year with the College Innovation Initiative. College Innovation was launched in February of 2111 with the objective of developing a coherent innovation support ecosystem to facilitate the commercialization of intellectual property and technology developed at UPRM.





The first UPRM's Forum of Commercialization and Technology Transfer to showcase to potential investors eight technologies with commercialization potential supported by "Innovación Colegial" was held in February 2013. Potential investors, faculty and collaborators participated in this Forum that featured as guest speaker Dr. Roberto Casas from Georgia Tech's very successful venture lab initiative.





Dr. Yohn-Jhin Kim, a Physics professor and president of Cutting Edge Superconductors, Inc. (CES), obtained first place in the national business plan competition of EnterPrize 2011 and second prize in InnoVenture 2012. By winning, the company received media coverage in major newspapers, a seed investment prize of \$30,000, a \$15,000 prize for SBIR proposal development counseling and in kind support such as free incubator space to house the company and pro bono legal services. After his presenting at the Forum and with the assistance of ecosystem partners, CES successfully applied for an SBIR Phase 1 Award from the NSF and is currently developing its product prototype.



Development of a Clean Energy Cluster

BEDC Co-hosted the second National Forum for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Economic Analysis Tools to Increase Business Competitiveness as a follow up effort between the Center and COHEMIS, another outreach multidisciplinary center at UPRM to the previous year presentation of the Sustainable Renewable Energy Roadmap shared with the CEDS Committee. As a result, several firms requested interns from the Business School to conduct marketing and financial assessments and on-going research to develop cost benefit models for the adoption of renewable energy alternatives by businesses was shared attendees.





Potential Service Impact:

A total of 95 information counseling cases were handled during this period. The clients rated the services with a 9.9 in a scale of 1 to 10 and commented very positively about the service and assistance provided.

Sample comments from our clients:

"Thanks to each of the staff from the Business and Economic Development Center. All of you helped me a lot and never said no, my greatest gratitude. All of this would not have been possible without people like you, dedicated to your profession." Carlos Alberto Pérez, Student and Owner of "El Casero".

























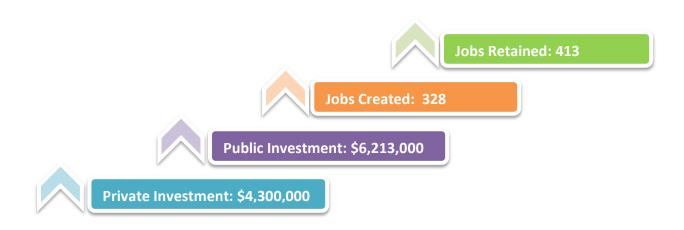








Potential Impact on Employment and Investment:



Institutional Support & Integration:

University, government and private sector allegiances were forged to implement initiatives to advance innovation entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

Faculty Engagement

Over 30 professors and researchers <u>from different disciplines</u> share their knowledge and coach entrepreneurs.



















Los Diez Errores Más Frecuentes al Establecer un Pequeño Negocio



April 2013 Newsletter | In This Issue:

Innovation Ecosystem Success Stories in Puerto Rico
University Center Partners with Baltimore City to Improve Economic Development Planning
Make it in America Challenge Minority Serving Institutions and Small Business Workshop
Safeguarding Your Exports: Intellectual Property, Contracts, Insurance & Ecommerce
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013



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WHO IS EDA? Mission

Innovation Ecosystem Success Stories in Puerto Rico

Entrepreneurial Development Assistance
Submitted by the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez (UPRM)

College Innovation, from Lab to Market: Technology Transfer and Commercialization by UPRM's Researchers, Students and Partners

Established in 2011, the College Innovation alliance integrates internal and external partners to create an innovation support ecosystem to facilitate the commercialization of intellectual property and technology developed at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) and its partners. The founding partners include the Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor (PRTEC) and the Puerto Rico Science and Technology Trust (PRSTT). This emerging technology enterprise is driven by talent recruited on campus and has obtained \$12.4 million in federal, state and private funding to successfully commercialize patented technologies.









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