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Contact: **Michelle Butler**
mbutler@wbcc-sd.org
619-921-6881



Non-profit Organizations Reach Out to Local Entrepreneurs During *EntrepreneurshipWeek USA, February 24-March 3, 2007*

February 22, 2007 - San Diego, CA- The newly formed San Diego Small Business Community Coalition has joined *EntrepreneurshipWeek USA*, a national effort to inspire and recognize entrepreneurial spirit. As a program partner to *The Week*, the group of local non-profit organizations is celebrating by hosting an event Thursday, March 1, 2007. The event will kick-off the start of the coalition and offer an opportunity for small business owners and assistance providers to network and learn about free and low-cost services available throughout San Diego County.

Event Details -- Date: Thursday, March 1, 2007

Location: Doubletree Club Hotel, Mission Valley, 1515 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, CA 92108

Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm

Registration: Call (619)-921-6881, Email mbutler@wbcc-sd.org or visit www.wbcc-sd.org/contact.htm (\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door)

With a theme of "What's Your Big Idea?, Take it On!, *EntrepreneurshipWeek USA*, February 24 – March 3, 2007, is a week long effort to celebrate the power of entrepreneurship and to ignite the nation's consciousness around the importance of being entrepreneurial. The nationwide goal is simply to increase public awareness of entrepreneurship. Locally, the San Diego Small Business Community Coalition looks forward to using this week as a jump-start to its ongoing goal of working together to support and provide assistance to San Diego's entrepreneurs. The Coalition recognizes the importance of these hard-working entrepreneurs as they are the backbone to the city's economy, comprising 93% of all businesses which have created more than half of the city's job growth since 1991.

"Through collaborative efforts, we plan to offer small business owners the opportunity to expand by promoting cross-referrals between each of our non-profit organizations so that we can best serve our members and clients," says Michelle Butler, Executive Director of the Women's Business Center of CA, a leader in the Coalition.

On a national basis, *EntrepreneurshipWeek USA* is sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, The New York Times and Inc. magazine. Official events are being planned in cities across the country, culminating in Washington, D.C, where the focus will be on the importance of policy to the nation's entrepreneurs. Here in San Diego, the Coalition is proud to serve as a partner hosting one of the only local events in the county.

"We are delighted with the leadership and expertise that these regional and local organizations bring to *EntrepreneurshipWeek USA* as program partners," said Carl Schramm, president and CEO of the Kauffman Foundation. "Educating people about entrepreneurship and reinforcing the value that entrepreneurs and innovators bring to our economy is critical to America's long-term prosperity – more so now than ever before."

What is the SD Small Business Non-profit Coalition? A group of the following non-profit organizations which provide resource assistance to entrepreneurs and collaborate to strengthen awareness of services to best serve the San Diego small business community:

ACCION San Diego, Alliance For African Assistance, Asian Business Association San Diego, Beyster Institute at the Rady School, Business Healthcare Connection, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting, CDC Small Business Finance, City of San Diego, City of San Diego Public Library, Pacific Community Ventures, Small Business Development Center, South County EDC, San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center, San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Diego North EDC, Women's Business Center of California. For more information on the Coalition, please visit: <http://www.wbcc-sd.org/outreach.htm>

About the Kauffman Foundation The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City is a private, nonpartisan foundation that works with partners to advance entrepreneurship in America and improve the education of children and youth. The Kauffman Foundation was established in the mid-1960s by the late entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Marion Kauffman. Information about the Kauffman Foundation is available at www.kauffman.org.

More information on *EntrepreneurshipWeek USA* can be found at www.EntrepreneurshipWeekUSA.com