

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



THROUGH THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP Initiative, SWIF has become a leader in building on and strengthening the entrepreneurial fabric in southwest Minnesota and providing the tools entrepreneurs need to be successful, increase wealth in their business and create prosperity in their communities. Youth entrepreneurship plays a vital role in this initiative, placing importance on exposing students to opportunities and encouraging them to build their businesses within the region.

- More than 70 entrepreneurs, lenders, educators, economic developers and civic leaders attended the first Entrepreneurship Network Academy.
- More than 35 educators attended the first Youth Entrepreneurship Academy. Task groups were formed to address goals, including creating an electronic tool for resource providers and entrepreneurs, and growing youth programs throughout the region.
- Step Up Your Business, a business support network, was created and launched in three communities with 27 businesses participating.

<http://www.swifoundation.org/entrepreneurship.html>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SWIF STAFF PARTNERED with Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Ridgewater College and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to increase educational opportunities and technical assistance availability to existing and aspiring entrepreneurs, including Microenterprise Loan Program clients, as well as entrepreneurial resources throughout the region.

- Monthly entrepreneurial education classes were offered in Hutchinson, Marshall, Redwood Falls, Willmar, Litchfield and Worthington.
- SWIF staff offered and taught management seminars in marketing and Quickbooks training attended by business owners and representatives.



<http://www.swifoundation.org/documents/entrepreneurclasssheet.pdf12-08.pdf>