



Director's Message

Greetings!

We are now officially into the new fiscal year and summer!

The state's website was launched in late June, and it's now mobile-friendly, too. In light of that, be sure to check state links on your site.

Late spring and early summer were host to some big events and conferences both in and out of the state. In May, I had the opportunity to attend the [eGov Innovation Summit](#), one of several [concurrently running conferences](#) that comprised eMerge Americas. Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator for the US Small Business Administration officially launched National Small Business Week from the stage. An amazing slate of [speakers](#) presented and led discussions from various governments to CEOs, including Julian Castro, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Jim McKelvey, cofounder of Square and [LaunchCode](#), and Richard Florida, the founder of the [Creative Class Group](#). There's more about it in the body of the newsletter.

In June, LaunchTN presented [36/86](#), the culmination of the Southern Series in Nashville; Chattanooga hosted Diversify 2015; and the East Tennessee Women's Leadership Summit was held in Alcoa.

Lastly, the 109th General Assembly wrapped up, and if you want to search a particular Public Act, you can [here](#).

Have a good rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wisty".

Wisty Pender
Director, BERO

❖ DBE/Veteran Best Practices and Highlights ❖

eGov and eMerge Americas

“Civic leaders understand that innovative thinking and disruptive technology can be agents of positive change in providing a better and more sustainable quality of life for those they serve. Through the eGov

Summit, participants will have the opportunity to address a wide range of pertinent topics, learn about the current best practices from other civic and business leaders and to interact closely with top global industry experts.”



For a quick look into this event, watch this <https://vimeo.com/132838570> (3:05 min).

The big question at eGov was ultimately, “What is the government’s role?” The sessions and discussions revolved around where and when the government can or should act as a convener, setting the stage and letting the populace take over, or act as an initiator, intervening in case of true need.

In the invite-only discussion co-hosted by eMerge Americas and LaunchCode, was represented by cities across the U.S. in the following states: California, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Texas. LaunchCode stepped in as an initiator where government was unable or unwilling to step in. Launch Code has started with the employers to identify jobs available, what companies are hiring for today; then filing the pipeline through traditional university, boot camps, etc.

LaunchCode’s strength is in convening, and then assessing candidates’ potential for success and leveraging networks for their placement. The discussion touched on working from home and rural access to the types of coding work needed. They are in the beginning stages of working on the rural questions, and found that working from home has not been a good fit for the companies in their network at this point. According to Nashville Technology Council Staff, they have good relationships with the employers, but the challenge lies in assessing the potential candidates.

In keeping with the core question, the discussion focused on connectivity and the [Internet of Things](#). The sessions around this topic were:

- Can Government Catch Up To The Digital World?
- Transformative Leadership for Digital Cities
- Impact of Disruptive Technologies on the Urban Landscape: Change in Mindset

Key takeaways and noteworthy items:

There are 50 billion devices connected to the internet, and this will only increase. The opportunity for citizen services and administration will only increase across all regions. As cities plan for growth, it requires physical and intelligent infrastructure. The intelligent should not be separate of the physical.

Broadband access is a challenge worldwide. There is a commonality in many of the challenges faced by rural areas of the world whether it is Tennessee or Trujillo, Peru. Innovations have emerged enabling governments to create platforms for their citizens, wherever they may be located, to engage.

Two particularly interesting challenges addressed was citizen engagement in government:

- The mayor, Elidio Espinoza of Trujillo, Peru has setup public meeting to take place livestream. It is a town where many people have moved away, but are very invested in it due to family ties. They have found that the broadest support and participation is actually coming from outside of the town, and they are motivating their families who live there to be involved and participate more.
- One government opened their data to its citizens to create efficiencies in government: Tel Aviv allows residents to choose their favored means of communication and receive municipal services in digital form. The city created the program as an opt-in service.

Open and efficient government, transparency, quality of life, global competitiveness, security, entrepreneurship, equity, and the how-to were among the topics of thought and discussions among the 10,000 participants. It is difficult to communicate how many incredible people working on interesting projects that could (and are) change the landscape of our ecosystems. Changing not only the way we do business, but how we connect and interact in our state and the world.

I expect I'll highlight more from this summit as we go along, too!

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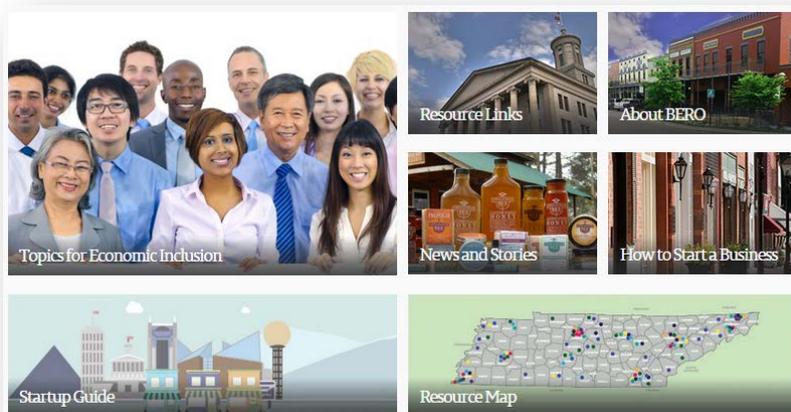
Larger cities in the state do variations for contracting to increase economic inclusion for business, but Montgomery is trying a little bit different approach:

Montgomery Advertiser: Montgomery County gives locals better shot at contract bids

www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/local/2015/07/06/county-keep-dollars-local-bidding-approval/29791601/

The Montgomery County Commission has approved legislation that will encourage more local business vendors and keep more dollars in the community. It raised the bid margin from 3 percent to 5 percent, so local, usually smaller, vendors can compete for contracts with bigger, out-of-state businesses. With the additional 2 percent, if a local business comes within 5 percent of the lowest bidding price for a county or municipal project, the County Commission now has the authority to award that business the contract.

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A couple BERO items...

BERO's "renovated" website went live in late June

The site is much easier to view on a mobile device and has allowed us centralize several items that were located elsewhere. Look for new sections like, Entrepreneurs with Disabilities and How to Start a business. Look for the newsletter to change in its delivery, with it and the articles posted under News and Stories. You still get to it

at tn.gov/ecd/bero. Also, the TN Smart Start Guide should fully be updated in its online version shortly; there were a lot of links to reconnect!

LiftTN: Microenterprise Update

In case you were wondering, no there isn't a special section on the website at this point. Nonetheless, we are now six months into the projects. Propel, the [mentor-protégé program](#) just inaugurated its first LiftTN class, which featured [Inky Johnson](#) as a speaker; [altShops](#) are recruiting for participants; the [Hohenwald Marketplace](#) continues to accept vendors; and the other projects are in the process. When there are announcements, like accepting applications, they can be found in the [TNECD hot sheet](#).

Refresher of projects...

- West TN: altShops through Communities Unlimited
- East TN: Mentor-Protégé Program through Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
- Middle and Statewide: [Incubator Without Walls Expansion Program](#) through Nashville Business Incubation Center Community-based Program: [Sonneschein Green Initiatives \(SGI\) Marketplace](#) in Hohenwald
- Youth: [TN Code Academy for Youth](#)

❖ Access to Capital ❖

This area usually highlights access to capital in terms of businesses and changes to policy or law that related to it. While I have included a few items of particular interest below the dots, this month I want to highlight a few public funding opportunities for those of you who work with businesses and are seeking to expand your services. Please forward these opportunities to others who may be able to take advantage of them, too!

◆ DRA: SEDAP Funding Opportunity

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) launched the 2015 application cycle for the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). Strategic investment in the 252 counties and parishes served by the Delta Regional Authority is helping to improve the quality of life and boost economic development opportunities

Details: <http://dra.gov/funding-programs/states-economic-development-assistance-program>

Application due: 7/19/2015

◆ NEA: Our Town Technical Assistance Program

The National Endowment for the Arts is creating a pilot program to provide select grantees of the agency's Our Town funding program with targeted technical assistance (TA) to execute their projects and to further inform the Arts Endowment in its understanding of the creative placemaking field.

Details: <http://arts.gov/program-solicitation-our-town-technical-assistance-program#sthash.39iqq5it.dpuf>

Application due: 7/21/2015

◆ NEA: Our Town

The grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. Creative placemaking is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work - placing arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies.

Details: <http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction>

Application due: 9/21/2015

◆ USDA: Rural Cooperative Development Grant Agriculture

The primary objective of the RCDG program is to improve the economic condition of rural areas by assisting individuals or entities in the startup, expansion or operational improvement of rural cooperatives and other business entities.

Details: www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=277223
Application due: 7/27/2015

◆ **USDA: Rural Community Development Initiative Grant**

Qualified private, nonprofit and public including tribal intermediary organizations proposing to carry out financial and technical assistance programs will be eligible to receive the funding.

Details: www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=276813
Application due: 8/13/2015

Good luck to everyone who applied for ScaleUP America and Startup in a Day through the SBA!

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The few articles mentioned above...

Pipeline Fellowship: An angel investing bootcamp for women

www.pipelinefellowship.com

Pipeline Fellowship is a six-month angel investing bootcamp for women and the time commitment is approximately two full days per month during the six months. Atlanta, Spring 2016.

Since its April 2011 launch, more than 100 women have graduated from the program and over 15 women-led for-profit social ventures have secured funding. One of these companies has already exited in under five years.

Microloan Program Expanded Eligibility and Other Program Changes

www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/06/15/2015-14413/microloan-program-expanded-eligibility-and-other-program-changes#p-13

Expanding eligibility for the Microloan Program will allow for increased creation of new businesses and will reduce the Federal barriers to successful reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals, who often have difficulty finding steady employment. The Agency developed this revision to the Microloan Program eligibility requirements as a result of a regulatory review conducted in connection with SBA's participation on the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. SBA's Microloan Program offers an opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals who meet the Intermediaries' lending criteria to receive financing and technical assistance to start their own businesses.

Did you know that there are often times when a period of public comment opens where your comments can be logged and considered for inclusion in changes and updates to existing policies, rules, etc.? The expanded eligibility is an example of that process.

Memphis Business Journal: FedEx Commits \$3 Million to Technology Institute

www.bizjournals.com/memphis/news/2015/03/30/fedex-commits-3-million-to-technology-institute.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=FedEx%20Commits%20%243%20Million%20to%20Technology%20Institute&utm_campaign=DC%27s%203/31

FedEx Corporate Services Inc. recently made a \$3 million commitment over three years to the University of Memphis' FedEx Institute of Technology. The gift coincides with school president David Rudd's vision for the institute to partner with global technology organizations to advance interdisciplinary research and faculty collaborations. The money from FedEx allows U of M to invest in data analytics, information security and testing, intermodal freight transportation, mobile sensors and quality data management through the FedEx Institute of Technology.

Nashville Business Journal: Investor heavyweights commit seed funding to Project Music

www.bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/03/investor-heavyweights-commit-seed-funding-to.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Investor%20Heavyweights%20Commit%20Seed%20Funding%20to%20Project%20Music&utm_campaign=DC%27s%203/31

Bullpen Ventures, an investment partnership comprised of local business heavyweights, has committed up to \$100,000 in seed funding to a company graduating next month from the Project Music accelerator, according to a news release. The commitment could spark interest from other local investors in Project Music companies, which

operate in the overlap of music, entertainment and tech, a segment that Nashville investors have historically shied away from.

...There are more articles related to access to capital in the compilation from the past quarter below, too.

❖ Events and Items of Note ❖

➤ **July:** *no commemoratives*

- July 21: 6th Annual Tennessee Procurement Summit for Government Contracting. Nashville. More information at <https://clients.tsdbc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=60350020>.

➤ **August:** Women's Equality Day (August 26)

- August 1-5: NIGP (Public Procurement) Forum, Kansas City, MO. More information at <http://nsite.nigp.org/forum15/home>.
- August 5-8: National Black Chamber of Commerce NOW 2015, Hollywood, FL. More information [here](#).
- August 6-8: eWomen Network 15th Annual International Conference & Business Expo, Dallas, TX. More information at www.ewomennetworkconference.com.
- August 19-21: Annual Elite SDVOB Network Convention, Long Beach, CA. More information at www.sdvobconference.com.
- August 25-27: MMBC Continuum Economic Development Forum, Memphis. For details call 901.525.6512 or visit <http://edf.mmbc-memphis.org>.

➤ **September:** Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15)

- **September 20-22:** United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Convention, Houston, TX. More information at <http://ushccconvention.com>.

➤ **And beyond...**

▪ **October:** Disability Awareness Month

- October 13-14: Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development, Nashville. More info at www.govcon.tnecd.com.
- October 18-21: The National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) Conference and Business Opportunity Exchange, San Diego, CA. More information at www.nmsdcconference.com.
- October 25-26: Economic Summit for Women, Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville, TN. More information at www.womenseconomicfoundation.org.

▪ **November:** American Indian Heritage Month

- November 16-19: RES New Mexico, The Reservation Economic Summit (RES). More information at <http://res.ncaied.org>.
- November 16-17: Global Action Summit, Nashville TN. (\$1M Challenge: Guidelines and Deadline: September 15, 2015; Early Stage Challenge: Guidelines and Deadline: TBA). More information at <http://globalactionplatform.org/pages/view/global-action-summit>
- November 16-22: Global Entrepreneurship Week. More information at <http://us.gew.co>.

❖ Call for Entries ❖

Case Studies:

We have been spotlighting how your organization worked with a client. How you plugged the company into resources, and what things that company or individual sought to accomplish. This serves two purposes, to highlight (1) your range of services and (2) the company itself statewide.

Best Practices:

Send a short paragraph explaining how and why, and the challenges. Your best practices can be anything from how you process a client to programs developed to fill gaps that are producing good results (i.e. business matchmaking, mentor-protégée programs, loan programs, etc.).

Events:

What impactful events are you planning, co-planning or promoting for DBEs? Include the basics of who, what, when, where and how, with a link for more information. Also include the expected number of participants.
Send events that take will place in the next 6 months.

How to submit:

There is a lot of great work being done across the state for DBEs. If you have questions that you would like to see how other groups are solving and/or addressing, send them along. Provide enough contextual information so your question can be answered in a relevant manner.

SEND YOUR BEST PRACTICES, QUESTIONS, WELL WISHES, ETC. TO ECD.BERO@TN.GOV.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU! REALLY! ALSO, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS ON TO OTHERS.

❖ Articles of Interest from the Last Quarter ❖

Do you need a different option to look through these articles?
These articles are also posted in “DBE Topics in the News” section of BERO’s website at tn.gov/e cd/bero.

◻ april ◻ april

Forbes: They Left Goldman Sachs to Help Corporate America Find Minority Candidates

www.forbes.com/sites/eilenezimmerman/2015/04/07/after-goldman-sachs-a-startup-to-help-corporate-america-find-minority-candidates/

Jopwell is a platform that lets companies connect with and recruit minority candidates for internships and jobs. These employers are considered “partner companies” by Jopwell, which helps them create a highly customizable employer page on the platform. That page enables companies to market their internships, job opportunities and programs to Jopwell’s minority users, which come from underrepresented ethnic minority groups— Black, Latin/Hispanic, and Native American.

USDA RD: USDA Awards Loans to Support Rural Economic Development

www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/news-release/usda-awards-loans-support-rural-economic-development

USDA Rural Development announced the award of \$4 million in loan funds to the City of Sevierville Sevier County Electric System to promote rural economic development...Through the REDLG program, USDA provides zero-interest loans and grants to utilities that

lend funds to local businesses for projects to create and retain employment in rural areas.

Entrepreneur: These 3 Organizations Are Working to Boost Female Entrepreneurs

www.entrepreneur.com/article/245084

Historically, female entrepreneurs have faced more challenges in the startup landscape, tasked with competing with male entrepreneurs for investment dollars and industry recognition. A 2014 report from Babson College found that less than 3 percent of venture capital-funded businesses had women at the helm. Fortunately, the landscape continues to change and there is an increasing number of opportunities available to women in business today. This support is helping level the playing field for female entrepreneurs, making it easier for new business owners to follow.

Entrepreneur: The 5 Richest Women in Tech

www.entrepreneur.com/slideshow/245136

Today, Singapore-based research firm Wealth-X announced its list of the five wealthiest women in the technology sector. From Meg Whitman to Marissa Mayer, these women have made millions as CEOs and shareholders of some of the world's largest tech

The Washington Post Hosts Women in Small Business Forum

www.washingtonpost.com/pr/wp/2015/05/04/the-washington-post-hosts-women-in-small-business-forum/
Women-owned businesses account for nearly 30% of all businesses nationwide, employ more than 7.6 million people, and generate \$1.2 trillion in sales, according to the 2007 U. S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business owners. On Friday, May 8, The Washington Post is convening the owners of successful startups, funders and others to explore the critical role women business owners play in the nation's economy and strategies for advancing business opportunities for women.

Washington Post: Five ways women can take it to the next level in business

www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-live/wp/2015/05/08/five-ways-women-can-take-it-to-the-next-level-in-business/

Women are running more than a third of the privately owned businesses in the United States. With their job numbers, income, and overall growth rates accelerating at a rapid clip, it's no surprise they are feeling optimistic about business conditions and their prospects for the future. In fact, our Spark Business Barometer recently showed women business owners were more likely to have experienced higher sales over the past six months, feel good about current business conditions, and feel optimistic about the future economy.

Forbes: The Importance of Relationships in Scaling A Small Business

www.forbes.com/sites/ryanfrankel/2015/06/09/the-importance-of-relationships-in-scaling-a-small-business/
Another critical component to our earliest successes was the non-teammate relationships we developed, most notably with our mentors, advisors, and advocates. These individuals contributed more to our early growth than we could have ever achieved on our own, resulting from their extensive experiences and network of relationships.

Forbes: Ranking Big and Small Banks for Small Business Lending

www.forbes.com/sites/sageworks/2015/05/11/big-and-small-banks-small-business-lending/
Financial institutions across the U.S. last week celebrated small businesses in a big way offering grants from \$10,000 to \$100,000, holding seminars, and touting their service and commitment to those firms considered to be the backbone of the U.S. economy. Banks clearly have a lot at stake when it comes to small businesses. After all, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small company, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S., according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, which led the federal government's efforts to recognize smaller firms during National Small Business Week.

BizWomen: Is being seen as a woman-run company an asset — or a liability? A Houston energy leader weighs in

www.bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/profiles-strategies/2015/05/is-being-seen-as-a-woman-run-company-an-asset-or.html

... "When you're perceived as women-owned, you're perceived as a small mom-and-pop T-shirt company," Ressler told the Houston Business Journal (a Bizwomen sister publication). "I don't lead with that."

Black Enterprise: Venture Capital: A Debate on How to Minorities & Women Can Get a Seat at the Table

www.blackenterprise.com/small-business/venture-capital-disparities-diversity-entrepreneurs

A key topic during the session was about the inclusiveness of minorities and women when it comes to having a seat at the table with people who could provide vital seed capital for businesses to grow.

BizWomen: She wants to sell her bakery for \$32K. Here's why she's asking for \$75 and a 100-word essay

www.bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/profiles-strategies/2015/05/she-wants-to-sell-her-bakery-for-32k-heres-why.html?page=all

... But there's the potential for pain on the part of the lucky winner — because there's no guarantee that, where one entrepreneur found success, another will, too.

Tennessean: Why South is the new home for women business leaders

www.tennessean.com/story/money/tech/2015/05/18/south-new-home-women-business-leaders/27367331

Life in the valley is tough... With less crowded markets, there are lower barriers to entry and less competition overall. The South is gaining attention on the financial side, too

Nashville Business Journal: Report: Revenue up, jobs down for state's women-owned businesses

www.bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/05/revenue-up-employment-down-for-women-owned.html

The growth rate of women-owned businesses in Tennessee mirrors national numbers: It's picking-up. Tennessee added 29,149 women-owned businesses between 2007 and 2014, according to the 2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, which was prepared with Census data by Womenable, a research organization supporting women's entrepreneurship, and commissioned by American Express Open.

BizWomen: VC Theresia Gouw: Backing diversity is more than funding female founders

www.bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/profiles-strategies/2015/05/vc-theresia-gouw-backing-diversity-is-more-than.html?page=all

...Was it just coincidence that it's a pair of female founders at Muse that you supported?

Nashville Business Journal: New Tennessee law makes corporation directors personally liable

www.bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/06/new-tennessee-law-makes-corporation-directors.html

Corporations are more expensive to form than proprietorships or partnerships and are governed by regulations, so the appeal of this business structure has traditionally been that shareholders, directors and officers do not have to put as much on the line. As a result of Public Chapter No. 60, the creditors can now sue the directors personally because the directors did not “cause” the corporation “to discharge or make reasonable provision for the payment of the claims of its creditors.”

AJC: Calfkiller Brewing creates craft beer in rural Sparta, Tennessee

www.ajc.com/news/travel/calfkiller-brewing-offers-craft-beer-in-rural-tenn/nmgvd/

Back in 2006, when brothers Don and Dave Sergio started Calfkiller Brewing Co., Sparta — in fact, all of White County — was dry. It would take another four years and some legal wrangling before Calfkiller was able to sell its brews. They produce about 1,500 barrels of their high-demand beer a year on a seven-barrel system, which is small by microbrewery standards. They are working on adding another fermenter and brite tank, which will increase capacity by about 30 percent, partly because it will enable them to brew five days a week without breaks.

WBBJTV: Henderson business named 2015 Rural Small Business of the Year

www.wbbjtv.com/news/local/Henderson-business-named-2015-TN-Rural-Small-Business-award-winner-309954151.html

Southern Chic Spatique, owned and operated by Stacey Ingold, has been named the Tennessee 2015 Rural Small Business of the Year. Walter N. Perry III, district director of the Tennessee Small Business Administration, presented the award on Wednesday at City Hall. Located at 615 West Main Street in Henderson, the business offers spa, beauty and personal care services as well as retail items. The business opened with Ingold and four tenants. Six additional tenants have since been added. Southern Chic Spatique also won the SBA Rising Star Award.

BizWomen: Intel Capital VP on how its new \$125M Diversity Fund will help bridge the funding gap

www.bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/profiles-strategies/2015/06/intel-capital-vp-on-how-its-new-125m-diversity.html?ana=e_bizw&u=10tYkfdU7CZ5q7kh/tZDw0d1fe6e6&t=1436997897

...Intel Capital hopes its new \$125 million Diversity Fund will open doors for diverse entrepreneurs — an issue that's been the subject of hot debate in the world of entrepreneurship and technology — and ultimately bridge the funding gap.

Memphis Daily News: Coalition Vows Push for Minority Business Gains

www.memphisdailynews.com/news/2014/jun/11/coalition-vows-push-for-minority-business-gains/

A new coalition of business leaders in Memphis announced Tuesday, June 10, that they plan to make the issue more of a political priority. A group of 100 business and political leaders gathered in the lobby of the National Civil Rights Museum to say they intend to push beyond studies and systems to monitor progress to grow minority business participation in city and county government contracts and in private-sector contracts as well.

Black Enterprise: Intel Pledges \$125M to Women and Minority Startups

www.blackenterprise.com/small-business/intel-pledges-125m-to-assist-women-minorities-start-ups/

Intel Capital, the company's venture capital sector, said it would allocate \$125 million over the next few years to bring more management diversity to its startup portfolio, according to CNBC. Previously, the tech giant pledged to spend \$300 million over the next five years to improve diversity. The two budgets are reported to overlap. The decision comes as technology companies face heavy criticism for their overwhelmingly white male employee numbers, which some say creates a climate that discourages women and minorities from aspiring to work in technology. Increased diversity is believed to lead to stronger, more innovative companies.

Entrepreneur: What Star Jones Is Doing to Push Diversity in the Workplace

www.entrepreneur.com/article/247376

For large, bureaucratic institutions, diversity has become a hot topic and, much like any political topic, most companies are simply checking the box. I personally think it's awesome that the conversation is happening, but are we doing everything we can to help balance the playing field? In my opinion, the playing field is completely screwed up and unbalanced, so how do we fix it? How do we get out of the old school “Mad Men” tendencies and grow up already.

CBS MoneyWatch: Why small businesses aren't borrowing

www.cbsnews.com/news/why-small-businesses-arent-borrowing

... Data collected by the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) on small business sentiment found that many small-biz owners are skittish about borrowing money. Indeed, only 10 percent of those surveyed recently by the NFIB felt it was a good time to expand, "and 53 percent explicitly said they did not want a loan."

Forbes: 2015 Forbes Women's Summit (14 Full Session Videos)

www.forbes.com/sites/moiraforbes/2015/07/02/2015-forbes-womens-summit-full-session-videos/

On June 10th, women of multiple generations came together for the third annual Forbes Women's Summit: Power Redefined. The theme of this year's gathering was "Transforming the Rule of Engagement." In order to achieve meaningful impact, leaders must connect with a diverse array of stakeholders to build community around a shared vision. How are the most successful leaders redefining pathways to power—in their businesses, communities and in the social causes they champion? How can each of us better identify and scale opportunities to ignite lasting change? The Summit brought together 300 leaders across diverse industries including the most dynamic thinkers in business

Anchor Employers, Entrepreneurs and Spinning In

<http://businessclimate.com/blog/2015/06/anchor-employers-entrepreneurs-and-spinning-in/>
...Spinoff of entrepreneurial companies from a large anchor employer happens for a number of reasons, notes Carol Lauffer, partner in Business Cluster Development, a Palo Alto, CA-based organization that specializes in creating sector-focused business incubation, acceleration and technology commercialization programs for universities, corporations, and communities.

Entrepreneur: U.S. Is No. 1 for Women Entrepreneurs, But There's Still Room for Improvement

www.entrepreneur.com/article/247767
The Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network Summit, tech giant Dell has announced the results of the first-ever Global Women Entrepreneur Leaders Scorecard. The results aren't pretty. The scorecard analysis looked at women's opportunities and challenges as business owners to "launch, scale, create jobs and disrupt industries" across 31 countries, Dell says.

Policy Dialogue: Promoting Micro-Multinational Entrepreneurs

www.kauffman.org/blogs/policy-dialogue/2015/june/promoting-micro-multinational-entrepreneurs?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pde2015-06-22

In 2014, over 190,000 US entrepreneurs and small businesses exported to consumers on at least four continents. That is an absolutely astounding figure when you consider that the US Commerce Department reports that less than 1 percent of all businesses in America export. For the first time in history, nearly every entrepreneur and small business can use technology to reap the benefits of trade on a global scale, an opportunity traditionally open to only the largest multinational corporations. We are entering the age of micro-multinationals.

Forbes: PowerMoves Goes Viral Before 2015 Installment, Brings \$13m Capital to Minority Entrepreneurs

www.forbes.com/sites/adriana-lopez/2015/06/29/powermoves-goes-viral-before-2015-installment-brings-13m-capital-to-minority-entrepreneurs/

PowerMoves.NOLA couldn't have come at a better time. The national, three-day conference, which is aligned with Essence Festival in New Orleans during Fourth of July weekend, gives minority entrepreneurs the opportunity to address and overcome many of the barriers that prevent many high-growth, minority-owned businesses from moving forward. For the conference's second installment, organizers have handpicked 40 entrepreneurs from around the country to participate in pitches, boot camps, panels and networking events. These events are aimed to connect participants with a network of advisors, experts and investors.

Entrepreneur: This Teen Paid for College by Selling on Etsy. Here Are 5 Ways She Did It.

www.entrepreneur.com/article/247609
LeiLei Secor, 19, lives in upstate New York but goes to college at the University of Virginia, which means she's paying out-of-state tuition. Even with a scholarship, the cost of her education is high around \$40,000 a year. In three years, this teenager has used her artistry, marketing abilities and time-management skills to rake in \$100,000 on Etsy selling handmade jewelry on her shop DesignedByLei

Tennessean: MNA study: Disadvantaged business programs still needed

www.tennessean.com/story/money/2015/06/30/mnaa-study-disadvantaged-business-programs-still-needed/29540429/

When it comes to addressing disparities and discrimination related to small, women- and minority-owned businesses, the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority's diversity programs are having an impact, but the need for a proactive approach remains. That's according to an independent study commissioned by the airport that evaluates disparities between the availability and usage of women- and minority-owned businesses and measures the effectiveness of its programs targeting those groups.

ARC: ARC Announces Successful First-Round Investment Closing of Appalachian Community Capital

www.arc.gov/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=525
More than \$15 million in new investment capital committed to meet the demands of 165 growing businesses, creating 800 jobs in rural Appalachia. When fully funded, ACC expects to leverage \$233 million in private bank capital and help create 2,200 jobs.

The Countries Where Female Entrepreneurs Have The Greatest Chance Of Success

www.fastcoexist.com/3047994/the-countries-where-female-entrepreneurs-have-the-greatest-chance-of-success?utm_source

...Overall, the United States comes out on top with a score of 71, but that's mostly due to its overall startup-friendly environment and capital availability, and not to any particular skill at fostering female leaders. Of the startups that raised venture capital in the U.S. in 2014, only 13% had women on their executive team and 3% had female CEOs. Only 37% of new businesses overall were started by women last year.

Huffington Post: Black Women-Owned Businesses Skyrocket By 322 Percent in Less Than 20 Years

www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/07/02/black-women-fastest-growi_n_7711078.html

African-American women are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in America, a new study reveals. The 2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report released this week found that the number of women-owned businesses grew by 74 percent between 1997 and 2015. That's 1.5 times the national average of business growth to be exact.

❖ Contact Information ❖

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About BERO:

BERO serves as a voice for and advocate of economic inclusion for Tennessee's disadvantaged businesses (DBE). The office is tasked to analyze, disseminate and promote best practices and access to capital for DBEs to service providers. It also reports on the status of DBEs across the state. For the purposes of BERO, DBE refers to businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities; as well as businesses operating in remote or rural areas of the state.

About ECD: Working to make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs.