



Director's Message

Hello and Happy 2016!

Fall 2015 wrapped up the year with a variety of events, conferences, report releases, awards and recognitions at global, national, state and local levels. In this newsletter there is information on the [Global Action Summit](#) hosted in Nashville and Global Entrepreneurship Week hosted in 160+ countries. The 2015 Governor's Conference presentation for the session, [Approaches for Supporting Rural Entrepreneurs](#), and the [BERO annual report](#) released in December, as well as updates on various programs statewide.

You have probably heard about it through at least one avenue by now, but just in case, we need your help in expanding entrepreneurial opportunities (as well as education and healthcare) through your [dissemination](#) and [participation](#) in an impartial statewide assessment of broadband access and usage. It is for residents and businesses in the state. We need your help in getting as many of state's DBEs and small businesses to take part as possible. Their future success depends on the ability to connect with customers. Thank you for your assistance!

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wisty Pender', written in a cursive style.

Wisty Pender
Director, BERO

❖ DBE/Veteran Best Practices and Highlights ❖

**We need your help.**

A statewide assessment of broadband access and usage in Tennessee is underway.

Survey Period Closes in March 2016

The future of Tennessee's economic success is directly tied to our broadband internet access. Having broadband access leads to an increase in educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, which therefore helps our state build a better workforce and accelerate job creation.

To ensure that every community in Tennessee has the tools to economically succeed, we must measure who has broadband Internet access, if they are using it and how they are using it. Please help us make sure that every Tennessean's voice is heard on this important topic by taking the 20-minute assessment at tn.gov/broadband and passing it on to other members of your community.

We need your help in getting as many of state's DBEs and small businesses to take part as possible. Their future success depends on the ability to connect with customers.

Download what you need from the Survey Toolkit:

tnecd.populr.me/broadband-survey

Password: tnecd

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**Global Action Summit 2015:**

The Global Action Summit is an annual forum held in Nashville, Tennessee, that fosters cross-sector perspectives on food, health, and prosperity. The aim of the Summit is to create, guide and

facilitate leadership initiatives. Summit participants include senior-level business leaders, research scientists, global agencies, NGO directors, and Summit Fellows. Events, conferences and outreach activities are also hosted throughout the year by the Global Action Platform to help facilitate program goals.

- Highlights (video): youtube.com/watch?v=Gso6ey0zp34
- Fareed Zakaria's Opening Remarks/Keynote(video): youtube.com/watch?v=rEsVk1oNF1Q
- A \$500M Challenge Impact Fund was announced through a partnership with Global Action Platform/Cumberland Center and Aegis Health Security. Further details have not been released.

Program: globalactionplatform.org/uploaded/pageimg/Summit%20Program%2011_13_15.pdf

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Entrepreneurship Policy Digest: How To Cook Up A Vibrant Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

kauffman.org/~media/kauffman_org/resources/2015/entrepreneurship%20policy%20digest/october%202015/how_to_cook_up_a_vibrant_entrepreneurial_ecosystem.pdf

The recovery from the Great Recession has not been felt evenly across the country. While some localities bounced back quickly, others have been slow to find their footing. In the midst of this uneven recovery, cities are grappling with widening income inequality, slow economic growth, and a capital restricted environment. To address

these challenges, local policymakers are increasingly turning to entrepreneurship—a proven driver of economic growth and a catalyst of upward economic mobility.

The Kauffman Index: Main Street Entrepreneurship Reports

- [Main Street Entrepreneurship Metropolitan Area and City Trends](#)
This report provides a broad index measure of small local business activity for the forty largest metropolitan areas of the United States.
- [Main Street Entrepreneurship State Trends](#)
This report provides a broad index measure of small local business activity for the fifty states of the United States, analyzing them in peer groups of the 25 largest states by population and the 25 smallest states by population.
- [Main Street Entrepreneurship National Trends](#)
This report provides a broad index measure of small local business activity in the United States. It presents an equally weighted index of two normalized measures of small and local business activity.



Other Items of Interest:

- **Corporations for Public Benefit in TN: Now available!**

The legal structure, also referred to as a **B-corp**, is not new but it is a new legal structure available in Tennessee. It provides another legal structure of particular interest to social enterprises and is already available in over 30 states.

What kind of company is for?

A domestic business corporation that intends to pursue a public benefit or public benefits. This entity must have a positive effect or reduction of negative effects on one (1) or more categories of persons, entities, communities, or interests, other than shareholders in their capacities as shareholders, including, but not limited to, an artistic, charitable, cultural, economic, educational, environmental, literary, medical, religious, scientific, or technological effect. (sos.tn.gov/products/business-services/profit-benefit-corporation)

- The **BERO annual report** was released with newly released data from the U.S. Census Survey of Business Owners (SBO).
- **BEST: Cohort 2 began in November at the Tennessee Prison for Women** in Nashville. The BEST (Building Entrepreneurs For Success in Tennessee) program, is designed to provide opportunities for personal development and transformation, then teach business and entrepreneurial skills to better equip individuals for successful reentry into the community after incarceration. (ec.co/best) There are 19 women from each of Tennessee's three women's prisons participating in the program. Karen Vander Molen, the program's director and founder, presented at the Global Action Summit - video [here](#).

- **2015 Team Tennessee Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development**
Presentations and video from the conference in October are available online, including the session slides for [Approaches for Supporting Rural Entrepreneurs](#).

❖ Access to Capital ❖

Policy Dialogue: Crowdfunding Rules Announced. What Next?

kauffman.org/blogs/policy-dialogue/2015/november/crowdfunding-rules-announced-what-next

...The new rules on crowdfunding allow anyone with a net worth less than \$100,000 to invest up to \$2,000 (or 5 percent of their net worth, whichever is greater) over a 12-month period. If an investor has an income and net worth greater than \$100,000, they can invest up to 10 percent of their net worth. The new rules will be effective Jan. 29, 2016.

Innovation Daily: Georgia gets first federal OK for crowdfunding business

innovationamerica.us/index.php/innovation-daily/49049-georgia-gets-first-federal-ok-for-crowdfunding-business--online-athens

The nation's first business with federal approval to use multi-state crowdfunding is a Georgia company building on an innovative state law.

Atlanta-based Groundfloor snagged the prize. It was begun in North Carolina but moved to Georgia to take advantage of the Peach State's law that opens the door to small investors.

Frost, Brown, Todd: A Brief Guide to the SEC's Final Crowdfunding Rules: 12 Facts You Need to Know

frostbrowntodd.com/resources-1855.html

By now, most people have heard of "crowdfunding" or have some idea of what the term means. Crowdfunding is a technique for raising small amounts of capital from a large number of people over the Internet.

Less understood, however, is the distinction between (i) crowdfunding on websites like Kickstarter or GoFundMe, which allow companies to fund ideas by giving away "rewards" (thereby avoiding the need to comply with federal and state securities laws), and (ii) crowdfunding on websites that allow people to purchase an ownership interest in a business ("equity crowdfunding"), which involves the purchase and sale of a security.

Field at the Aspen Institute: The Racial Wealth Gap, Narrowing the Racial Wealth Gap through Business Ownership

assetfund.org/images/pages/AFN_Racial_Wealth_Gap_-_Strategy_Spotlight_2015.pdf

The growing racial and ethnic wealth gap presents a challenge for funders striving to build assets and tackle inequality in the United States. One of the key reasons for the racial wealth gap is that African American and Latino households hold lower levels of business and financial assets.

...Although business ownership may be an important means to build wealth in our economy, African Americans and Latinos have encountered challenges in acquiring the capital, knowledge, and market access needed to grow their firms.

Devex Impact: The next wave of development finance innovation

devex.com/news/the-next-wave-of-development-finance-innovation-87139

Impact investing has typically been a practice reserved for foundations, private equity or venture capitalists, but a new crop of alternative investment opportunities are emerging that are bringing traditional financial institutions more into the mix. In practice they are merely slight variations to the everyday debt and equity instruments that banks deal with in large volumes every day. But these financial products add a development objective to an investment goal and establish a key link between sustainability targets and commercial capital.

In doing so they address a major funding dilemma facing social enterprises and sustainability-focused small and medium-sized enterprises.

... Development impact bonds give banks an opportunity to invest in development projects and earn a return that is not generated through donations or charitable giving. It allows them to fulfil their core objective of seeking a return on investment. For civil society program implementers, a development impact bond can be a useful option for leveraging a foundation's finances to mobilize early volumes of commercial capital for development.

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

❖ Events and Items of Note ❖

- **January:** National Mentoring Month, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention
 - January: NextFarm, a business accelerator focused on agricultural related ventures and innovation is open for application.
 - January 28: 2016 Farmer's Market Boot Camp (1), White Pine. [Registration](#) deadline January 21.
 - January 29: 2016 Farmer's Market Boot Camp (2), Athens. [Registration](#) deadline January 22.
- **February:** Black History Month, Irish-American Heritage Month
 - February 11-3: Pick TN Products, Knoxville. More information at tdaruralroutes.org/#04
 - February 22: 2016 Farmer's Market Boot Camp (3), Lebanon. [Registration](#) deadline February 15.
 - February 24: 2016 Farmer's Market Boot Camp (4), Winchester. [Registration](#) deadline February 17.
 - February 20-23: International Franchise Association Convention, San Antonio, TX. More information at convention.franchise.org/home.
- **March:** Women's History Month
 - March 2: 2016 Farmer's Market Boot Camp (5), Trenton. [Registration](#) deadline February 24.
 - March 3: 2016 Farmer's Market Boot Camp (6), Centerville. [Registration](#) deadline February 25.
 - March 14-17: Global Entrepreneurship Congress, Medellin, Columbia. More information at gec.co.
 - March 21-24: National Reservation Economic Summit (RES) 2016, Las Vegas, NV. More information at res.ncaied.org.
 - March 22-24: Women's Business Enterprise National Council 2016 Summit & Salute, Phoenix, AZ. More information at summit.wbenc.org.

➤ **And coming up...**

- 26th Annual Government Procurement Conference: April 6, Washington, DC. (fbccconferences.com/e/procurement/default.aspx)
- WPO 19th Annual Conference: April 7-9, Baltimore, MD. (womenpresidentsorg.com)
- eMERGE Americas: April 18-19, Miami, FL. (emergeamericas.org)
- Growing Entrepreneurial Communities Summit: May 4-5, Kansas City, MO. (energizingentrepreneurs.org)
- 2016 Black Enterprise Entrepreneurs Conference: May 4-7, Miami Beach, FL. (blackenterprise.com/events/entrepreneurs-summit)
- GROWCO: May 17-19, Las Vegas, NV. (growco.inc.com)
- 36|86, The Southern Series: June 6-7, Nashville. (thirtysixeightysix.com)

❖ Your Turn to Submit ❖

What do we want to know about? We are looking for these:

Case Studies:

We have been spotlighting how organizations work with clients. How they connect resources, and what things that company or individual sought to accomplish and did. It serves to highlight your range of services and the company itself statewide.

Best Practices:

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. 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 to ecd.bero@tn.gov.

Feel free to suggest or forward 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/ecd/bero.

▫ DECEMBER ▫

Biz Women: Survey says 2016 will be a good year for female business owners

bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2015/12/survey-says2016-will-be-a-good-year-for-female.html

A Yelp survey of small business owners in its social referral network shows a lot of optimism for 2016.

The survey found that 85 percent of all small business owners expected revenue to grow next year. Among female owners, that figure is 83 percent.

Government Technology: Local Data: Where Are Businesses Starting Up?

govtech.com/data/Local-Data-Where-Are-Businesses-Starting-Up.html

...Interestingly, much of the growth stems from new minority-owned firms, the vast majority of which are self-employed individuals operating unincorporated businesses. The number of black-owned firms grew about 34 percent, while Asian-owned firms climbed 24 percent from 2007 levels, according to national Census estimates. An even larger increase -- 46 percent -- was recorded for Hispanic firms, prevalent in places like El Paso and Miami. Data suggests Hispanic-owned businesses are overrepresented in certain industries, such as the sector that encompasses administrative support, waste management and remediation services.

Biz Women: By the numbers: How women in business fared in 2015

bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/out-of-the-office/2015/12/by-the-numbers-how-women-in-business-fared-in-2015.html

Numbers can often illustrate a topic better than words. Take a look back at some key statistics from the year to see how women fared in 2015.

... 45: Percentage of millennial business owners who are women
 - Compared to 25 percent of baby boomer business owners

... About 1 million: Number of views of "CODEGIRL"

HBS Working Knowledge: Without Immigrants, We Wouldn't Have Google

hbswk.hbs.edu/item/without-immigrants-we-wouldn-t-have-google

What is the secret sauce of US commercial success? It's the contributions of immigrants, like Google co-founder Sergey Brin, who have made huge contributions to the technological and economic success of the United States, argues Harvard Business School Professor Shane Greenstein.

Biz Women: New study shows price discrimination is alive and well

bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2015/12/new-study-shows-price-discrimination-is-alive-and.html

What's the difference between a red Radio Flyer scooter and a pink Radio Flyer scooter sold at Target? Nothing, except the pink scooter costs twice as much.

Forbes: 30 Under 30: PartPic*/Jewel Burks

forbes.com/30-under-30-2016/manufacturing-industry/#2715e4857a0b1458ed3476cd

An entrepreneur from a family of entrepreneurs, Burks began her career at Google before her grandmother's breast cancer diagnosis led her to decide to move back home to Atlanta. There, she took a job working at McMaster-Carr, a top U.S. industrial parts distributor. But when it came to hunting down specific gears and other bits of machinery from its stock of 550,000 products, it was a far cry from what she was used to at the search giant. *PartPic, headed by Burks, a Nashville native, won the [36|86](#) pitch competition in June 2015.

Nashville Business Journal: Nashville a top city for businesses owned by women, millennials

bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/12/nashville-a-top-city-for-businesses-owned-by.html

Among big cities nationwide, Nashville has one of the highest rates of millennial entrepreneurs that own small businesses, according to a [new study by the Kauffman Foundation](#).

GEW: Global Entrepreneurship Congress

gec.co

At the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) in Medellin, Colombia, thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and other startup champions will gather together to discuss "The Business of Next." Delegates from more than 160 countries around the world will be talking about how to drive the entrepreneurship spirit forward in their country.

Nashville Business Journal: Nashville EC partners with Google to boost diversity

bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/12/nashville-ec-partners-with-google-to-boost.html

The Nashville Entrepreneur Center is launching a new initiative in 2016 to help develop a more inclusive entrepreneurial environment in Music City, according to a news release.

The initiative includes five scholarships for under-represented and minority members of the community. Recipients of the scholarships will receive a one-year membership at the center and tuition for the PreFlight program.

Happy Migrants Day

blog.migreat.com

Today is International Migrant's Day! The day celebrates our human history, the story of hundreds of millions of courageous individuals who chose to overcome adversity and work at creating a better life for themselves in a foreign country.

Ameyaw Debrah: BBC's 100 Women | Half the World Speaks

ameyawdebrah.com/bbc-100-women-rns-for-2015-2/

Young, geeky and black in Memphis ...The first episode focuses on Memphis, Tennessee – a majority black city and the poorest metro area in the United States. It's also home to a group of organisations and passionate individuals working to get young, black women into technology and tech jobs. Presenter James Fletcher meets some of the girls involved in Black Girls Code and Code Crew, and their teachers and mentors who feel that coding and tech offer Memphis a path out of poverty

▫ NOVEMBER ▫

Nashville Business Journal: Nashville startup makes Time's list of 2015's best inventions

bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/11/nashville-startup-makes-times-list-of-2015s-best.html

Nashville-based music-tech startup Artiphon already had one pretty notable achievement this year: a \$1.3 million Kickstarter campaign that ranked as one of the crowdfunding site's best ever. Now the creators of the all-in-one instrument have another feather to add to their cap, courtesy of Time magazine.

Daily News Journal: MTSU presents Global Entrepreneurship Week

dnj.com/story/money/business/2015/11/13/mtsu-presents-global-entrepreneurship-week/75722754/

... His MTSU talk, titled "From Darkness to Sight: A Story of Opportunity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship," will take place from 7-8 p.m. Monday in the State Farm Lecture Hall, Room S102 of the Business and Aerospace Building. It is free and open to the public.

McDowell will be host for workshops to teach MTSU students how to win a business-plan competition and also overseeing Wednesday's entrepreneurship fair for area high school students. New this year, the invitation-only fair will feature participating students making elevator pitches and creating trade show displays to be judged by a panel of experts.

HBS Working Knowledge: Developing Your Next CEO for the Family Business

hbswk.hbs.edu/item/managing-the-family-business-developing-your-next-ceo

...Bower makes a strong case for making "Insider Outsiders" your next CEO. These internal candidates with some outsider views have a more objective and independent view about how your company needs to change and adapt. Executives with the right mix of Insider and Outsider attributes, Bower claims, are likely to do a better job and create more economic value as CEO. I agree but CEO selection is more complex for family companies.

Biz Women: 5 takeaways from the women of Fortune's Global Forum

bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2015/11/5-takeaways-from-the-women-of-fortune-s-global.html

Fortune's Global Forum took place in San Francisco this week, and leaders from all industries provided insight on doing business globally.

Popular topics included technology and leadership, which affect companies large and small.

Economy Matters: Keeping Up with the Gazelles, Part 2: Why Gazelle Founders Set Sail

frbatlanta.org/economy-matters/2015/11/12/keeping-up-with-the-gazelles-part-two.aspx

In interviews with four dozen founders of fast-growing companies across the Southeast, Atlanta Fed researchers identified three general paths that these entrepreneurs followed. Economy Matters staff writer Charles Davidson profiles some of the prototypical gazelle founders.

Biz Women: 8 female founders on making the leap from corporate climber to entrepreneur

bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2015/11/8-female-founders-on-making-the-leap-from.html

Today is Women's Entrepreneurship Day [November 19], a worldwide celebration of women who are leading businesses and breaking barriers in the workplace.

...We are celebrating the day by asking business leaders about the moment they decided to make the leap, from corporate climber to entrepreneur.

GEN News: 2015 Amway Global Entrepreneurship Report Released as Part of GEW 2015

wearegen.co/gew/2015-amway-global-entrepreneurship-report-released-part-gew-2015

... [The report](#) found that 43 percent of respondents around the world could imagine starting a business. Men (47 percent) were more willing than women (38 percent). University degree holders and those under 35 years old (each 51 percent) showed the most potential. All this said, however, just 10 percent were currently self-employed, sustaining the entrepreneurial gap of 33 percent from 2014.

Nooga.com: Pakistani Native, Female Entrepreneur Contributes to Local Economy with New Business

nooga.com/171641/pakistani-native-female-entrepreneur-contributes-to-local-economy-with-new-business/

Entrepreneur Amna Shah has been working diligently toward success since she came from Pakistan to the United States at age 16.

...She now has 10 consultants and projects \$1 million in revenue by the end of 2015.

"It ... feels good to give back to U.S., for it gave me my American dream," she said.

GEN News: GEW Celebrates Female Founders

wearegen.co/gew/gew-celebrates-female-founders

...The strategies to promote women's entrepreneurship are different than for other demographic groups: beyond stereotypes about their abilities, women face unique challenges that prevent them from becoming successful entrepreneurs, such as a scarcity of female mentors. Only armed with more accurate information, program coordinators and funders can make adjustments to address their particular challenges. We salute pioneers, such as GEW Board member Rebeca Huang, in fighting this through vehicles like Rivet Ventures.

Venture Nashville: Bunker Labs for Veterans emerging at Nashville Entrepreneur Center

venturenashville.com/bunker-labs-for-veterans-emerging-at-nashville-entrepreneur-center-cms-1181

...The national Bunker Labs website lists services for active duty military anticipating an exit, and veterans who have left military service. Peer-to-peer learning, with mentors, industry experts, an investor network and other resources are described there.

GEN News: American Cities Celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week

wearegen.co/gew/american-cities-celebrate-global-entrepreneurship-week

Global Entrepreneurship Week starts this morning with more than 10 million people participating in over 30,000 events in 160 countries. While the United States has in large part been the originator of the startup revolution now unfolding across the globe, this renaissance of entrepreneurs is still relatively new for some parts of our nation. This week we look at how GEW is celebrating emerging ecosystems in three American cities: Albuquerque, New Mexico; Louisville, Kentucky; and Washington, D.C. - See more at: wearegen.co/gew/american-cities-celebrate-global-entrepreneurship-week#sthash.IPToef3U.dpuf

Fast Company: This Food Truck Spends Part Of Its Route Delivering Meals To Hungry Kids

fastcoexist.com/3052310/this-food-truck-spends-part-of-its-route-delivering-meals-to-hungry-kids

When a new Oklahoma City food truck isn't serving burgers at street parties, it will deliver free healthy meals to kids who are struggling with hunger.

"As efficient as food banks are, they still have a hard time delivering food to the margins of our community," says Mike Zserdin from Made Possible By Us, the startup launching the truck. "A lot of times the people who need the food aren't able to get it at the delivery points."

Biz Women: NAWBO has a very specific idea for how women can help close the gender wage gap

bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2015/11/nawbo-has-a-very-specific-idea-for-how-women-can.html

The National Association of Women Business Owners has an interesting proposal for narrowing the pay gap: More women need to start their own businesses.

HBS Working Knowledge: Why Does Gender Diversity Improve Financial Performance?

hbswk.hbs.edu/item/why-does-lack-of-gender-diversity-hurt-performance

... He commented that improved performance is not about gender diversity, but rather about cognitive diversity-- "differences in the way that we see and categorize the world, the way we solve problems and the way that we make predictions." A comment from "The Real Deal" echoes this belief: "If you want real diversity, surround yourself with people from different backgrounds who do not think like you. You could hire 50% women, and if they are clones of your existing leaders, in terms of how they think ... then you in reality have diversity only on paper."

Times Free Press: Signal Mountain women start business from the yoga mat up

timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2015/nov/03/business-help-people-believe/333770/

...It took about \$10,000 to get My Mat My Mantra going, \$5,000 from each of them, Fowler and Smith said. They declined to share their company's revenue but said that for this calendar year through August it has doubled compared with all of calendar year 2014....Fowler, 43, and Smith, 45, both mothers, were homemakers when they launched the company.

Nooga.com: Dayton entrepreneur plans to expand to Chattanooga, carry on family's legacy

nooga.com/171496/dayton-entrepreneur-plans-to-expand-to-chattanooga-carry-on-familys-legacy/

Third-generation entrepreneur John Tipton is studying business management at Mercer University, and he plans to expand his family's business from Dayton to Chattanooga when he graduates.

...He is becoming an entrepreneur because of his family, not for the money, he said. He wants to carry on his family's legacy and be a part of the community and storytelling aspect of business ownership.

Teknovation.com: Enthusiasm, energy and inquisitiveness abound in YEA! Classroom

teknovation.biz/2015/11/02/enthusiasm-energy-inquisitiveness-abound-yea-classroom/

...It was one of 30 weekly classes scheduled well into next year where two dozen young people with an average age of between 13 and 14 are learning about entrepreneurship – taking an idea and developing it into a business.

◊ OCTOBER ◊

Knoxville News Sentinel: Tennessee farmers, rural small businesses net \$2M in USDA grants

knoxnews.com/business/tennessee-farmers-rural-small-businesses-net-2m-in-usda-grants-ep-1340619428-353332651.htm

The department's Rural Energy for America Program funds energy efficiency improvements and renewable-energy systems for rural small businesses and agricultural producers.

Dry Ridge Farm, a full-service equestrian boarding and training facility founded by then-UT student Alex Green in 2010, received more than \$25,000 with the help of Knoxville contractor Aries Energy.

Nashville Business Journal: Nashville tech company named one of the best by Entrepreneur

bizjournals.com/nashville/blog/2015/10/nashville-tech-company-named-one-of-the-best-by.html

A Nashville-based tech company made the cut of 10,000 to be named one of the best entrepreneur companies in America.

Concept Technology Inc. was listed as one of Entrepreneur magazine's Best Practicers for 2015.

YouTube Wants Everyone To Watch This New Movie About Girls Who Code

huffingtonpost.com/entry/youtube-codegirl-streaming_562e1fb3e4b0aac0b8fd53f8

...In her new documentary "Codegirl," producer Lesley Chilcott profiles Technovation, a tournament in which high school girls from around the world have three months to design an app that solves a problem in their community.

The trailer for "Codegirl"(video): youtube.com/watch?v=cRb5iel-3Ck

GEN News: Global Entrepreneurship Week 2015 Tops 160 Country Mark

wearegen.co/gew/global-entrepreneurship-week-2015-tops-160-country-mark

The 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) will be its largest celebration of entrepreneurship yet, with events in 160 countries. From November 16-22, roughly 10 million people will take part in the eighth annual celebration, recognizing and supporting entrepreneurs from around the world.

Fast Company: This Ninth Grader Invented A Device That Harvests Power From Ocean Waves

fastcoexist.com/3052431/this-ninth-grader-invented-a-device-that-harvests-power-from-ocean-waves

A few startups have spent millions developing massive underwater power plants that gather energy from ocean waves. But a Florida teenager has invented a small-scale alternative, designed for the developing world, that costs just \$12.

Hannah Herbst, age 15, started thinking about renewable energy after talking with her nine-year-old pen pal in Ethiopia. "I found out that she's living in energy poverty, and she doesn't have access to things that I take for granted every day," Herbst says.

Huffington Post: Women in Tech: Entrepreneurs Gather in Chattanooga to Discuss Future of Startups

huffingtonpost.com/beth-cone-kramer/women-in-tech-entrepreneu_2_b_8328320.html

... According to the National Women's Business Council, in 2012, 9.9 million women-owned business in the United States generated \$1.6 trillion in receipts. However, per the St. Louis Business Journal just 14% of the total capital invested by venture firms this year went to women.

SouthernAlpha: 8,000+ women engineers are gathered in Nashville — and ready for more to join the field

southernalpha.com/8000-women-engineers-are-gathered-in-nashville-and-ready-for-more-to-join-the-field/

... One special event that's taking place on Saturday is Invent It. Build It, a program for middle school girls, families and teachers where the girls will have a chance to do creative and challenging engineering activities. "They'll meet some incredible women in engineering and learn what it's like to be an engineer," said Randy Freedman, outreach manager at SWE. " Hundreds of engineers attending WE15 have volunteered to work with the girls, families and teachers who attend the event."

SSA-IRS Reporter (published in English and Español)

irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/SSA-IRS-Reporter

An online-only publication for businesses, payroll professionals and others who work with payroll taxes and employment tax issues.

Wired: Chattanooga is Offering Internet Faster than Google Fiber

wired.com/2015/10/chattanooga-is-offering-internet-faster-than-google-fiber

...Today the Chattanooga Electric Power Board, the city-owned power utility, says that it is now offering 10 gigabit connections—nearly 1,000 faster than the average broadband connection in the US—

Times Free Press: Startup Week's Angel Summit focuses on investment, community

timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2015/oct/15/startweeks-angel-summit-focuses-investment-community/330586/

[The summit] was for investors, to help them learn more about putting money to good use in startups. It brought together accomplished entrepreneurs, business leaders and investors from across the country.

PR Newswire: Tech Entries Dominate 2016 Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge: American Farm Bureau Announces Top 10 Teams

prnewswire.com/news-releases/tech-entries-dominate-2016-rural-entrepreneurship-challenge-american-farm-bureau-announces-top-10-teams-300155952.html

The American Farm Bureau today announced the top 10 teams – four finalists and six semi-finalists – of the 2016 Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge...

The final four teams, chosen from 165 applicants, were each awarded \$15,000 and will advance to the next phase of the challenge. ...Farm Specific Technology (Bolivar, Tennessee), ag tech entry, no-till crimper for cover crop production. Team lead: Shawn Butler.

Update - Tampa Bay Business Journal: AccuGrain of Iowa Honored as Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year

bizjournals.com/tampabay/prnewswire/press_releases/Florida/2016/01/11/DC95802

Garnering 49 percent of the vote, Farm Specific Technology of Bolivar, Tennessee, team lead Shawn Butler, won the People's Choice award in the competition and an additional \$10,000 in prize money for a no-till crimper for cover crop production. Members of the live audience at the finals competition and members of the general public voted online to select the People's Choice winner. Tennessee residents cast the most votes (1,229) followed by Iowa (1,068) and Kansas (205).

Policy Dialogue: Crowdsourcing Crowdfunding Rules

kauffman.org/blogs/policy-dialogue/2015/october/crowdsourcing-crowdfunding-rules

Crowdfunding is opening up large amounts of early stage capital for entrepreneurs. As regulators struggle to write new rules for this exploding phenomenon, they might do well to crowdsource their own questions and experiences.

Tech Goes Home provides training, computers for low-income families

timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2015/oct/14/bridging-digital-dividetechnology-goes-home-brings/330374/

For Edilzar Garcia, the American dream will be molded with a hot soldering iron... So far, Tech Goes Home Chattanooga has helped 140 people, including 99 families, get better access to technology and digital literacy skills. The program is being offered in 20 schools, libraries, churches and community centers this fall.

McKinsey Global Institute: How advancing women's equality can add \$12 trillion to global growth (video and report)

mckinsey.com/insights/growth/how_advancing_womens_equality_can_add_12_trillion_to_global_growth

A "best in region" scenario in which all countries match the rate of improvement of the fastest-improving country in their region could add as much as \$12 trillion, or 11 percent, in annual 2025 GDP. In a "full potential" scenario in which women play an identical role in labor markets to that of men, as much as \$28 trillion, or 26 percent, could be added to global annual GDP by 2025.

❖ 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 TNECD:

Tennessee was named 2014 and 2013 "State of the Year" for economic development by Business Facilities magazine. The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's mission is to develop strategies which help make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs. The department seeks to attract new corporate investment in Tennessee and works with Tennessee companies to facilitate expansion and economic growth.

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