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ABOUT MTEC SMARTZONE

The mission of MTEC SmartZone is to provide technology-based facilities, resources and programs to high-growth entrepreneurs and companies that increase employment, income, wealth and recognition in the U.P. communities where we serve. Our vision is having integrated economic development of the region that includes a vibrant technology sector; driving Michigan's technological leadership and economic growth with sustainable opportunities for companies and their employees to prosper. More information is available at www.mtecz.com

ABOUT THE MEDC

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is the State of Michigan's one-stop resource for businesses seeking to grow in Michigan. Whether it's an expansion, a relocation, or even a concern with another agency of state government, the MEDC can help. From site location assistance to job training grants, from help with permits to tax abatements, we're the state's economic development corporation. More information is available at www.themedc.org.

SmartZone is a service mark of Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

MTEC SmartZone Awarded \$100,000 Grant to Open an Entrepreneurial Training Center

HANCOCK, MI – Entrepreneurs looking to start businesses in the Keweenaw region have a new training center about to meet them in the journey. MTEC SmartZone has been awarded \$100,000 to establish the Business & Entrepreneurship Training Center (BTEC) located in the Jutila Center in Hancock, MI.

As partners in the project, MTEC SmartZone and Finlandia University pooled resources to bring the project to fruition. As part of a major renovation in 2009 on the 6th floor of the Jutila Center, Finlandia University prepared a large room to offer a training center which has since been idle, awaiting funds for equipment. An incubator grant from Michigan Economic Development Corporation is filling the room with computers, teaching tools, software and business consultants to help navigate the business startup process. A supporting program will help entrepreneurs start their businesses as they learn. "This is another great example of collaboration, partnering, and leveraging scarce resources for advancing entrepreneurship and economic development," states MTEC SmartZone CEO, Carlton Crothers.

According to MTEC SmartZone program director, Jonathan Leinonen, "Businesses will be created right in the training center. Entrepreneurs are hardly short of ideas around here but sometimes following through is the challenge. With this training center in place, entrepreneurs can start their businesses while they're learning. This is entirely different from other types of training. For example, entrepreneurs will be able to set up their own companies in QuickBooks as they're learning under the guidance of a QuickBooks instructor." Similarly, companies can research their market, prepare specific marketing plans, or submit their corporate filings using software, telephones and Internet access provided in the center.

A program of ten courses is being prepared over the next year, open to any entrepreneur planning to start a business. Leinonen adds, "Nobody in here is writing a business plan only to leave with a dream of starting a business. They're in business with the support of the training program and business counselors who help them in the center between classes."

You may direct questions about the Business & Entrepreneurship Training Center to Jonathan Leinonen at MTEC SmartZone, (906) 487-7004.

