

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

SBA discussion series to help professionals transform careers, learn about emerging industries

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May 9 discussion to focus on tool-die industry

How do you make a career change or start a new career? Have all of your assumptions changed? What options and resources are available in support of making a career transformation?

Many professionals throughout the Metro Detroit area and beyond are asking themselves those questions and others. That's why OU's School of Business Administration is hosting a series of informal discussions for individuals considering new career opportunities and small business owners considering expansions. Introduced by the SBA's Center for Integrated Business Research and Education (CIBRE) this conversation for a new Michigan economy focuses specifically on career opportunities and transformation.

"The goal of this CIBRE Conversation is to gather information and seek commonalities among people exploring alternative careers, then develop strategies that will help them start a journey to a fruitful career in the new Michigan economy," says SBA Dean Mohan Tanniru.

The informal discussions will be held two Saturdays each month May through August. Participants will

- interact with the SBA dean, faculty members and other career professionals
- network with others who are transforming their careers
- learn more about current and emerging opportunities in the new economy
- share insight about what would best assist them in developing and meeting their new career goals.

"If you have experience in one field and are considering a move to a new field, or if you're thinking about becoming an entrepreneur, you'll find these sessions enlightening," Tanniru says. "If you're struggling to find a new path or you're a small business owner looking to expand into new sectors, these sessions may also help."

The first CIBRE Conversation will focus on the tool-die industry. From 10 a.m. to noon attendees will discuss factors influencing the competitiveness of today's tool-die manufacturers, and an afternoon workshop, from 1:30 – 4 p.m., offers the chance for an in-depth discussion on action items that address how U.S. tool-die manufacturers can be more competitive.

Future CIBRE Conversations and Workshops will focus on other current and emerging industries and opportunities, including health care, bio fuels, batteries, solar wind and others. Topics are being scheduled for the following Saturdays: May 23, June 6 and 20, July 11 and 25, and August 8 and 22. Check the CIBRE Web site for details at www.sba.oakland.edu/cibre.

Reservations are not required, but are appreciated. To RSVP e-mail desmet@oakland.edu.

The series supports the CIBRE's goal of serving as a catalyst for transforming the region's economic future by educating a workforce to find success in a rapidly changing global marketplace. For more information about CIBRE, visit www.sba.oakland.edu/cibre.

SUMMARY

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