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Columbia Economic Development Corporation

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## Fourteen Complete Microbusiness Seminar Series

October 25th was the final class of Columbia Economic Development Corporation's MicroBusiness Seminar Series. 14 individuals from 10 towns and the City of Hudson completed the series.

Receiving certificates of completion were: Kate Arding, Talbott and Arding Cheese and Provisions; Margaret Bower Avenia, Columbia County Real Estate Specialists; Chris Billingham, Christopher Billingham, Architect; Karen Blake-Kittle, Omi Lavender; Justin Burke; Sean Casey, Alula Woodworks; Anna Dawson, Hometown Foods LLC; Matthew Halstead, Studio 428; Jeanette Nesel, Germantown Beer Farm; Erin Robertson, Erin Robertson Landscape Design; Timothy Schroder, Enginuity Engineering & Design PLLC; Seung Suh; Douglas Thorsey; and Fahari Wambura, Fahari Bazaar/Fahari Totes.

Several participants have existing businesses, and enrolled in the program to expand their business knowledge. Others plan to start a business in the near future. Karen Blake-Kittle, owner of Omi Lavender, is changing the direction of her business.

"I want to capitalize on the agricultural aspect of my business, by allowing people to pick their own lavender," explained Blake-Kittle. "I need a business plan to help determine whether that is feasible. The fact that CEDC will pay for a consultant to help develop the plan is a big help."

The MicroBusiness Seminar Series consists of seven weeks of classroom training by accountants, attorneys, lenders, and marketing experts. Tony Jones, Chairman of Columbia Economic Development Corporation, addressed the group at their final class.

“Columbia County benefits from each new generation of entrepreneurs,” said Jones. “We need your ideas, your creativity, and your passion. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes; learn from those mistakes as you continue to build your business.”

Technical Assistance is provided at no charge to all who complete the series. The cost of the program is \$150.00, which is refunded at upon completion in the form of either a one-year membership in the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, or a gift certificate to an office supply store. Scholarships are available for those who meet income criteria.

The next Microbusiness Seminar Series will be scheduled after the first of the year. To request an application, please call Martha Lane at CEDC at 828-4718.

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