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Columbia Economic Development Corporation

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Eleven Complete Microbusiness Seminar Series

October 31st was the final class of Columbia Economic Development Corporation's MicroBusiness Seminar Series. 11 individuals from 6 towns and the City of Hudson completed the series.

Receiving certificates of completion were: Andrew Gates, Houlihan Lawrence; John Grayzel, Art Gallery; Antoine Guerlain, Artisan Bakery; Tracey Hicks, Pretty Perfectly; Erik Lehtinen, Integrative Financial Life Management; Kelly Leonardo, Tin Can Juicery; Gavin Preuss, Home and Property Photography LLC; Laurie Pulver, Pulver's Creative Studio LLC; Mara Schiavetti, A Green Beauty; Maria Smirensky, HR & Benefit Consulting; and D'Arcy Smith, Rekhoundzz.

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.

"I have found this seminar series very helpful and am in the process of putting much of what I have learned into practice. I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend," remarked Gavin Preuss. "The sessions I enjoyed the most were those that encouraged the most participation. It was at times fascinating to learn about what fellow attendees were working on. Thank you and well done!"

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."

“As you continue to build your business, be mindful of the 4 C’s of business ownership,” said Jones. “**Cash** – Invest and create a platform for growth; **Courage** - In business, nothing goes the way you expect; have the courage to adapt; **Cooperation** - You are not the only person involved in the business; you can't always do things your way; and **Conscience** - Listen to your social conscience.”

Technical Assistance is provided at no charge to all who complete the series. The cost of the program is \$195.00. \$175.00 of the course fee is refunded in the form of a one-year membership in the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, or a gift certificate to Staples. 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.

PHOTO



Front row: John Grayzel, Laurie Pulver, Kelly Leonardo, D’Arcy Smith

Back Row: Erik Lehtinen, Tracey Hicks, Andrew Gates, Maria Smirensky, Gavin Preuss, Antoine Guerlain

Missing: Mara Schiavetti

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