

Wilson Zehr

From: FAIRLEY Scott G * GOV <Scott.G.FAIRLEY@oregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 1:41 PM
To: 'Wilson Zehr'; 'Susan Christensen'; Lisa Dawson; Christine Jarski; McDowell Brian * BIZ
Cc: FAIRLEY Scott G * GOV
Subject: Venture Competition meeting June 13 9am

Hello all,

It look like June 13 at 9:00am works for everyone. I will send a calendar invitation shortly.

From: Wilson Zehr [mailto:wzehr@eou.edu]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 12:23 PM
To: FAIRLEY Scott G * GOV <Scott.G.FAIRLEY@oregon.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Support the Development of Rural Community Facilities

This is great. Thanks Scott!

Both dates work for me. I'll block out whatever the team selects.

Excited to see what we can do...

Wilson

From: FAIRLEY Scott G * GOV [<mailto:Scott.G.FAIRLEY@oregon.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 9:18 AM
To: McDowell Brian * BIZ <Brian.Mcdowell@oregon.gov>; Lisa Dawson <lisadawson@neoedd.org>; 'Susan Christensen' <Susan.Christensen@geodc.net>
Cc: 'Wilson Zehr' <wzehr@eou.edu>; FAIRLEY Scott G * GOV <Scott.G.FAIRLEY@oregon.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Support the Development of Rural Community Facilities

Hello all,

Wilson Zehr, a Business Professor with EOU has proposed an interesting idea for a venture competition (see below from Wilson) for Eastern Oregon. This idea aligns with Regional Solutions priorities and I think is a good fit for your organizations as well. Wilson and I would like to invite you to join us to talk about what is needed to start a venture competition for the region.

Please let me know your interest in discussing this and your availability to meet on June 12 at 1:00pm or June 13 at 9:00am or 1:00pm. We can meet at the Regional Solutions Office in La Grande and call-in will be available. I will send out an agenda prior to the meeting.

Thanks and I look forward to a good discussion.

From: Wilson Zehr [mailto:wzehr@eou.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 4:43 PM
To: FAIRLEY Scott G * GOV <Scott.G.FAIRLEY@oregon.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Support the Development of Rural Community Facilities

Hi Scott,

As we discussed, the idea is to create a new venture competition here in Eastern Oregon. We will recruit new venture teams, coach them up, and then host a competition. The most promising teams will receive a venture package with cash, coaching, and business services (legal, accounting, payroll...) – the amount of these awards (one/many) is still TBD. This type of program has worked very well in Beaverton, Portland, and a number of other communities.

We would like to start by raising \$25,000 in seed funding from local/state government. This money will be contingent on raising matching funds from independent (angel) investors here in Eastern Oregon. The angel investment will serve to match the seed investment in the winning ventures. Angels investors, will not only be investors, but they will also serve as mentors for the ventures/entrepreneurs. This particular element is key to the success of the ventures and will also get some more influential business owners involved in economic development here in this part of the state.

Steve Morris, who runs OTBC (Beaverton, OR), has had a program similar to this for many years, and he is willing to work with us to help set it up. Once we have it up and running it will be our job to expand and sustain the effort.

We are happy to put all the pieces together here at EOU with the help of other community partners involved in entrepreneurship and economic development. We would be happy to host the competition and get our students involved through our entrepreneurship program (though this competition is NOT limited to EOU students).

Think we could do a lot of good here starting with very little. Plus, we will two for one style economic development leverage.

Can we pull together a team and see what is possible? Would love to see what we can put together.

Best;

Wilson