

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:35 A.M. on January 31, 2007 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Radley, Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship
Eric Petersen, Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship
Wally Kearns, Kansas Small Business Development Center

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Brownlee announced there were minutes for approval on January 17th, January 18th, and January 19th.

Senator Reitz made a motion to approve the minutes for January 17th, January 18th, and January 19th. Senator Jordan seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Brownlee announced the tour to Innovia and Heartland Park scheduled for Friday, February 2nd was being cancelled for lack of interest from the Committee. She asked the Committee to let her know if they would like for her to reschedule.

Chairperson Brownlee turned the meeting over to Senator Jordan.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Eric Peterson, Operations Manager, Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship to give an update on the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship. Mr. Peterson presented written copy. (Attachment 1) Mr. Peterson stated he would be giving a brief update about NetWork Kansas. He stated the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship officially launched the NetWork Kansas call center, consisting of two hundred forty (240) resource partners, and networkkansas.com website. The resource partners consist of organizations that provide assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners in the form of business plan training and development, workforce training assistance, loan packaging and financial assistance, and many other resources. (Attachment 2) In closing Mr. Peterson stated the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship's implementation of the Kansas Economic Growth Act of 2004 is focused on three primary needs that each entrepreneur and small business may need; they need education; and/or they need economic resources. The primary responsibility of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship is to connect each entrepreneur and small business with the organization or organizations that can assist them in starting or growing their business.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Steve Radley, Director, Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship, to give his update on the initiatives of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship. Mr. Radley presented written copy which he reviewed for the Committee. (Attachment 3) Mr. Radley stated the mission of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship is to promote an entrepreneurial environment throughout the state of Kansas by establishing a central portal that connects entrepreneurs and small business owners with the right resource; expertise, education, and/or economic, at the right time. Mr. Radley highlighted education, economic resources and the first Kansas Agricultural Biosciences Entrepreneurship Forum held in Topeka the day before.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Wally Kearns, State Director, Kansas Small Business Development Center to review written copy of an overview of the Kansas Small Business Development Center Program. (Attachment 4) Mr. Kearns opened stating he had conversations with Steve Radley and Eric Peterson and they agree the paperwork for starting a business may be cumbersome and bureaucratic: therefore, NetWork Kansas counselors are going through the current required process for registering a business, in Kansas so they can

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Commerce Committee at 8:30 A.M. on January 31, 2007 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

report back to the Committee about the process and make recommendations. They should be getting back to the Committee in February with that information.

Mr. Kearns stated the Kansas Small Business Development Center network has a proven track record of creating jobs and generating growth for Kansas' small businesses. During the review Mr. Kearns referred the Committee to "Everyone wants to start a business". (Attachment 5) In closing, he recommended the book, "The Entrepreneurial Imperative" written by Carl Schramm.

Questions and answers followed.

Chairperson Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next scheduled meeting scheduled for February 1, 2007, in room 123 S.