

NewsWire

December 1, 2009

HELPING ENTREPRENEURS AND BUSINESSES GROW AND SUCCEED

A joint program of the Labovitz School of Business and Economics, Natural Resources Research Institute, and Swenson College of Science and Engineering.

STUDENT TO BUSINESS INITIATIVE

STUDENT TO BUSINESS INITIATIVE (SBI) PROGRAM

is accepting
applications for
Spring semester



Is your target market other businesses? Do you need a marketing plan? UMD CED is now accepting applications from businesses who would like to participate in the Spring Semester Business to Business Marketing SBI Program.

UMD Center for Economic Development collaborates with Labovitz School of Business and Economics (LSBE) for the Student to Business Initiative (SBI) Program. The SBI Program partner's student teams with businesses to develop a marketing plan. Through this initiative, students gain valuable experience while businesses receive another viewpoint into their business marketing that can give new insight and direction.

For more information about the SBI Program or to apply for your business to participate, visit:

IRS News for December 2009

- [SBTV](#) has business-related news-casts daily on the web and information from the IRS.

- [Bartering](#), trading one product or service for another, has tax responsibilities. The updated [Bartering Tax Center](#) provides tax information and reporting requirements for participants and barter exchanges.

INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS

- According to the [Social Security web site](#), the wage base will remain the same for 2010, at \$106,800.
- [IR 09-94](#) The IRS announced cost-of-living adjustments applicable to dollar limitations for pension plans and other items for Tax Year 2010.

- [Headliner 276](#) IRS spotlights tax benefits for small businesses that accommodate and hire individuals with disabilities.

- [Notice 09-91](#) provides guidance to employers paying wages to nonresident alien employees for services performed within the United States.

- [Revenue Procedure 09-51](#) gives the procedures for employers who are eligible to file Form 944 (small employer's annual return) to request to file Form 944 instead of Forms 941, (the employer's quarterly return.) It also tells how employers, who previously were notified to file Form 944, can request to file Forms 941 instead.

- [The Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008](#) (WRERA) waived required minimum distributions (RMDs) for 2009 from [defined contribution \(DC\) plans](#) and [individual retirement arrangements \(IRAs\)](#). [Notice 2009-82](#) provides two sample plan sponsors may adopt. See [Employee Plans News, September 25, 2009, Special Edition](#) for more information.

- The Fall 2009 [Employee Plans News](#) includes information about hardship distributions, retirement and savings initiatives, and more

- New [Publication 4128](#), Tax Impact of Job Loss, explains tax issues connected to severance pay, unemployment compensation, pension plans, job search expenses and moving costs. It is also available in [Spanish](#).

- [Headliner 277](#) Lump-sum timber sales now require issuance of Form 1099-S.

SBI Initiative (cont.)

www.umdced.com/programs/studentbusiness.html. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, December 30, 2009.



MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GP YEAR END SEMINAR

Monday, December 14, 2009
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Cost: \$40.00

Join Microsoft Certified consultant, Sue Coady, to learn how to ensure a smooth year end closing for your Microsoft Dynamics GP (Great Plains) system. This seminar is great for new Dynamics GP users who have never closed the books before and for those who would like a review of this yearly process. Companies running Microsoft Dynamics GP payroll are strongly encouraged to attend. Attendees will receive a Year-End Procedures Manual that includes both detailed and summary checklists for each of the Microsoft Dynamics GP modules (General Ledger, Receivables Management, Payables Management Inventory and Payroll).

IRS News for December 2009 (cont.)

CONSTRUCTION:

- The recently enacted Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 has provisions for extension and expansion of the [First Time Homebuyer Credit](#) and more. Watch irs.gov for updates, or read the bill at the [Library of Congress web site](#) (Public Law No: 111-92).
- [IR-09-98](#) People can now weatherize their homes and be rewarded for their efforts. Homeowners making energy-saving improvements this fall can cut their winter heating bills and lower their 2009 tax bill as well.

IRS News for Payroll 2009

- [Revenue Procedure 09-51](#) gives the procedures for employers who are eligible to file Form 944, to request to file Form 944 instead of Forms 941. It also tells how employers, who previously were notified to file Form 944, can request to file Forms 941 instead.
- [Headliner 276](#) IRS spotlights tax benefits for small businesses that accommodate and hire individuals with disabilities.
- [Notice 09-91](#) provides guidance to employers paying wages to nonresident alien employees for services performed within the United States.
- New [Publication 4128](#), Tax Impact of Job Loss, explains tax issues connected to severance pay, unemployment compensation, pension plans, job search expenses and moving costs. It is also available in [Spanish](#).
- According to the [Social Security web site](#), the wage base will remain the same for 2010, at \$106,800. [IR 09-94](#) The IRS announced cost-of-living adjustments applicable to dollar limitations for pension plans and other items for Tax Year 2010. The annual limits for most retirement plans remain the same as in [2009](#).
- The Fall 2009 [Employee Plans News](#) includes information about hardship distributions, retirement and savings initiatives, and more.
- [The Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008](#) (WRERA) waived required minimum distributions for 2009 from [defined contribution \(DC\) plans](#). [Notice 09-82](#) provides two sample plan sponsors may adopt. See [Employee Plans News, September 25, 2009, Special Edition](#) for more information.
- [Notice 09-86](#) extends the time by which a governmental plan must comply with final regulations on distributions from a pension plan upon attainment of normal retirement age (“the NRA regulations”).
- Generally, an Employer Identification Number (EIN) is requested by listing on the application an individual or entity who is the entity’s true responsible party as the principal officer, general partner, grantor, owner, or trustee. The “responsible party” is the individual or entity that controls, manages, or directs the entity and the disposition of the entity’s funds and assets. A nominee, however, is someone who is given limited authority to act on behalf of an entity, usually for a limited period of time, and usually during the formation of the entity. [A nominee should not request an EIN](#). If you used a nominee when applying for an EIN visit the [Updating Incorrect Business Entity page](#) to learn how to correct the information.

TAX ISSUES FOR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

IRS [Publication 3402](#) has information on single members LLC's, multiple member LLC's, employment taxes, conversion of a corporation to an LLC, and operating losses on LLC's.



This publication might be helpful to the following taxpayers:

- 1) New business owners who are deciding which type of business entity they want to select
- 2) New LLC's that want to know what forms they need to file to report income and expenses.
- 3) New LLC's that have questions about how to pay their taxes and how to handle employment taxes.

If you want to order this publication for your office, you can do so using your partner "order point number". Follow this link to order: <http://mysbse.web.irs.gov/CLD/SL/Products/Resources/2352.aspx>

If you want a partner "order point number" or if you need to know what your partner "order point number" is, please contact: karen.a.brehmer@irs.gov.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BUSINESS Workshops

<u>Tax Saving and Recordkeeping Tips for Your Small Business</u>	12/16/2009 (9:00am-12:00pm)	\$25.00
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Information-packed workshop covers recordkeeping and tips on what to track throughout the year to be organized making tax time smoother.

<u>Writing a Business Plan</u>	12/16/2009 (2:00pm-4:00pm)	\$25.00
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Don't know how or where to begin writing a business plan? This workshop covers the components needed to write an effective business plan.

COMPUTER Workshops

<u>Illustrator I - Basics of Graphic Design</u>	12/09/2009 (9:00am-12:00pm)	\$60.00
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Illustrator is a vector based drawing program developed by Adobe. This workshop covers creating basic primitive shapes and how to manipulate and transform them. With these shapes, the workshop then adds grouping to make manipulations easier. Concepts like stroke, fill, z-order, duplications, alignments, distribution, and text are also covered.

<u>Access III - Database Relationships and Queries</u>	12/09/2009 (1:00pm-4:00pm)	\$60.00
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(Prerequisite: experience using Access on a daily basis) Covers database terms and concepts. Build a relational database from scratch and create tables. Define relationships between tables and understand some rules for building a relational database. Write queries using the design view, SQL view, and query wizard. Create and understand indexes. Understand the basics of data model normalization and build a relational database from scratch.

Photoshop I - Basics of Digital Images

12/10/2009 \$60.00
(9:00am-12:00pm)

One of the most popular photo editing software programs, this workshop goes through selections, crop and slice, burn and dodge (selective lightening and darkening), retouching, reducing the picture size, the different types of graphic files, and improving digital photos. The workshop also covers selection, cutting and pasting pieces of one photo and using it in another or the same photo and will give an introduction to layers.

Photoshop II - Beyond the Basics of Digital Images

12/10/2009 \$60.00
(1:00pm-4:00pm)

This workshop builds on the skills learned in Photoshop I. It covers layers, how they are used and how to create different ones in the program. Using layers, you can create effects such as drop shadow and glow. Using layers with painting tools and with different filters and effects will also be covered.

QUICKBOOKS

QuickBooks

12/08/2009 \$99.00
(9:00am-4:00pm)

Covers the basic functions of this number one selling small business accounting program. In addition to this day-long workshop, receive the QuickBooks learning guide.



Check out our Facebook page for business tips, upcoming events, workshops, and new information from the Small Business Administration, State of Minnesota and the Internal Revenue Service.

The University of Minnesota Duluth Center for Economic Development offers numerous workshops to help entrepreneurs and employees operate more efficiently. **All workshops are held at the Duluth Technology Village, 11 E. Superior Street, Suite 210, unless otherwise noted.** To register call: 218-726-7298, 888-387-4594 or register online: www.umdced.com/workshops.

The mission of the University of Minnesota Duluth Center for Economic Development is to assist entrepreneurs and businesses to grow and succeed.

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and sponsoring centers. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. For arrangements, contact: UMD Center for Economic Development, 11 E. Superior Street, Suite 210, 218-726-7298

1986 – 2009 Celebrating 23 years of excellence and also recognizing UMD's 25 year partnership with the Minnesota Small Business Development Centers

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

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