

# Small Business Center at Forsyth Tech

“Increasing Business Success”



If you are an entrepreneurial thinker and would like more information about starting or expanding a business, contact the Forsyth Tech Small Business Center for free information, including small business seminars and one-on-one counseling.

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## Launch Challenge

In a recent article, I shared some of my reflections about Venture Café. Winston Salem is pleased to be the fifth city in the world to be the home of Venture Café. I am pleased to have participated in the launch event on May 4th held at Inmar. I am excited to have participated in most of the subsequent Thursday Gatherings. The purpose of Venture Café is to “broaden, connect, and support the innovation community” which is a great complement to our purpose at the Small Business Center to increase business success. I first learned about Venture Café about a year ago and immediately thought that it would help to position our community as a leader in entrepreneurship.

This month, I am happy to introduce an exciting program that was announced during the initial Thursday Gathering of Venture Cafe Winston Salem. Have you heard about the Business Launch Challenge? On May 4th, six colleges/universities announced their financial commitments to starting businesses in our city. Each institution will provide financial capital to selected persons committed to starting their businesses. Forsyth Tech is pleased to introduce the Launch Challenge.

As you may already know, the Small Business Center supports current and prospective business owners in a variety of ways. Persons planning to start a business are invited to submit an application to participate in one of the sessions of Launch Challenge. It is a 3-4 month program for persons who will become business owners by the end of the program. They will participate in our educational events and meet with our business mentors while preparing to launch their businesses. Some participants will receive a financial award to help them to start their businesses.

If you know someone who may be interested in the Launch Challenge, have them connect with us. Even if you are not quite ready to apply to participate in the Launch Challenge, we want to support you. You can visit our website learn about our educational events and to schedule an appointment with a business mentor. We also invite you to read client testimonials and client success stories to learn about how we have supported our clients.

The objective of the Small Business Center at Forsyth Tech is to help small businesses succeed by providing high quality, readily accessible assistance to prospective and existing business owners in Forsyth and Stokes counties. Our motto is “Increasing Business Success,” which describes our commitment to clients. The N.C. Community College’s Small Business Center Network assists in starting an average of more than 800 businesses each year and the centers have an economic impact in 90 percent of all N.C. counties each year, helping to create and retain over 2,800 jobs annually. You may learn about our services at [www.forsythtech.edu](http://www.forsythtech.edu). Feel free to stop by our office at 525@Vine in Wake Forest Innovation Quarter just east of the heart of downtown Winston- Salem. You may also contact us at [SBC@forsythtech.edu](mailto:SBC@forsythtech.edu) or by calling (336) 757-3810.