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-onone counseling.

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Forsyth**Tech** at innovation quarter National Small Business Week

In my previous article, I discussed the concept of being a FORCE in business. Each year, I attend a small business summit in January sponsored by Guilford Technical Community College. The entire day is designed to start each year off with a bang for hundreds of current and prospective business owners. The message of one of the speakers really intrigued me. I quickly connected with Ivey Ghee on LinkedIn and asked her for permission to share some of the great things that I learned. She graciously agreed to allow me to introduce you to the concept of FORCE (in my words).

This month, I want to discuss the celebration of National Small Business Week. The Small Business Center started in 1984 and for several years has coordinated the celebration of National Small Business Week in Forsyth County. We coordinated 15 events during the first week of May 2018 which were attended by hundreds attendees. Although it is important to celebrate small businesses all the time, it is especially important to focus on them even more during National Small Business Week. Here are some of our highlights.

Sponsorships – We are fortunate to partner with several organizations who financially supported us during our celebration. Join me in thanking Allegacy Federal Credit Union, BB&T, City of Winston Salem, Debt Sucks University, Docsmore, Kernersville Chamber of Commerce, Winston Salem Chamber of Commerce, and Woodforest National Bank.

Dinners – On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday our participants were treated to dinner which was catered by three clients of the Small Business Center. Our caterers were KevMark Catering, Smoke & Skillet, and KMS Creations.

Daily themes – Our theme were Marketing on Monday, Branding on Tuesday, and Communications on Wednesday. We conducted several events related to these themes. On Thursday, our theme was SBC on the Road because we took our events to The Enterprise Center, Stokes County, and Bailey Power Plant.

Keynote speakers – We brought in three powerful keynote speakers Timogi Jackson, Nanyamka Farrelly, and Greta Lint. They provided a wealth of information and excitement.

Venture Café – We celebrated the first anniversary of Thursday Gatherings of Venture Café Winston Salem. This included updates from the Emerging Entrepreneur Funds and the winners of the Triad's Most Innovative Companies.

You may learn about our services at <u>www.forsythtech.edu</u>. 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 <u>SBC@forsythtech.edu</u> or by calling (336) 757-3810. 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 700 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 3,800 jobs annually.

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