Encore for senior entrepreneurs

The Small Business Administration and AARP entered into a strategic alliance to provide: Americans ages 50+ with information, knowledge, and resources to help them start their business or nonprofit in the next five to ten years. For many 50+ individuals, entrepreneurship training is the toolkit that empowers them to use their experience, knowledge, and skills to become job creators. In addition, entrepreneurship training focuses on helping small-business professionals leverage their past career knowledge for a new business. Our core-program entrepreneurs have access to professional and business resources to help them start and grow a business.

The 50+ entrepreneur toolkit provides detailed answers to the core questions: What will you sell? Will the potential market support your business? How much money will you need to start your business? As you answer these questions, you'll learn how to do a feasibility study to determine the viability of your new business idea. Our core-program entrepreneurs have access to professional and business resources to help them start and grow a business.

The 50+ entrepreneur toolkit is a valuable resource for anyone planning to start a business or nonprofit. The toolkit is designed to help you:
- Conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of your new business idea.
- Develop a business plan that includes a detailed marketing plan.
- Secure funding for your new business.
- Create a management team that will help your business succeed.
- Stay current with the latest business trends and opportunities.

Real Possibilities

Bay State Milling Company enters seed development business

Bay State Milling, a plant-based ingredient company with a strong local presence in Martin, Indiantown, recently added seed development to its portfolio with the formation of 5th Generation Seed, LLC. Born from the acquisition of various wheat and barley varietals from a previous family owned company which celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2014, as well as the entrance of the fifth generation of family members into the development ranks. “The formation of 5th Generation Seed will allow us to be better able to meet the next generation of customers and consumer needs through the availability of new plant varieties developed from historically grown varieties in Martin, Indiantown, and Central Florida,” said Peter Levangie, the company’s president and CEO.

5th Generation Seed will have access to a broad array of Triumph and Spring wheat varieties including the GrainEssentials Center and new crop development. The company is able to offer varieties that are delicious, commercially viable products available to demonstrate the performance of new varieties to customers. The company has a strong health and wellness focus and the commitment to be a leader in developing and growing grain and legume varieties for grain-based foods through its in-house research and development, and custom milling and custom blending capabilities and relationships in the Martin County area to better meet the needs of customers and consumers. “5th Generation Seed will have access to a broad array of Triumph and Spring wheat varieties including the GrainEssentials Center and new crop development. The company is able to offer varieties that are delicious, commercially viable products available to demonstrate the performance of new varieties to customers. The company has a strong health and wellness focus and the commitment to be a leader in developing and growing grain and legume varieties for grain-based foods through its in-house research and development, and custom milling and custom blending capabilities and relationships in the Martin County area.”

Florida agriculture growing profits and jobs

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) recently released a report which shows Florida’s agriculture exports of $4.2 billion in 2014. This marks the 10th consecutive year that Floridians produced $4 billion in exports. Florida’s exports have grown at a 7.8% annual rate since 2004, and have increased every year since then, with Florida’s agricultural export crisis year of 2008.

Florida’s agriculture products were exported to 180 countries in 2014. The top destination for Florida products since 2000 was Canada with $1.8 billion in exports, followed by Mexico with $1.4 billion in exports. Florida’s top agriculture export categories were fruits and nuts with $1.3 billion in exports.

In western Martin County, Indiantown’s 5th Generation Seed, LLC, is a provider of an array of plant products and diverse agronomic interests, with over 7,000 acres of classified agricultural land. The economic impact in western Martin County of 5th Generation Seed will have access to a broad array of Triumph and Spring wheat varieties including the GrainEssentials Center and new crop development. The company is able to offer varieties that are delicious, commercially viable products available to demonstrate the performance of new varieties to customers. The company has a strong health and wellness focus and the commitment to be a leader in developing and growing grain and legume varieties for grain-based foods through its in-house research and development, and custom milling and custom blending capabilities and relationships in the Martin County area to better meet the needs of customers and consumers. “5th Generation Seed will have access to a broad array of Triumph and Spring wheat varieties including the GrainEssentials Center and new crop development. The company is able to offer varieties that are delicious, commercially viable products available to demonstrate the performance of new varieties to customers. The company has a strong health and wellness focus and the commitment to be a leader in developing and growing grain and legume varieties for grain-based foods through its in-house research and development, and custom milling and custom blending capabilities and relationships in the Martin County area.”

The Council on Aging of Martin County appoints new president & CEO

The Council on Aging of Martin County, Inc., a leadership organization on the Treasure Coast for over 38 years, is now under new leadership. The private, non-profit organization was recently renamed KEISER, RPP, Inc., a President & CEO, succeeded Ellen A. Kafouni, who retired in March.

Prior to joining the Council on Aging, Rieger had a 15-year career with Enterprise Systems, a global information services company, rising through the ranks from Medi- cal Coding to Vice President, Palmetto Claims Services Chief Nursing Officer. She was responsible for all aspects of coding services and systems integration into a comprehensive service system. Rieger is a licensed health care provider, a licensed practical nurse and a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Rieger is a licensed health care provider, a licensed practical nurse and a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Based at the Kane Center in Stuart, the Council on Aging’s mission is to help seniors living any age living in Martin, health, and living in their own homes. Services offered at the Kane Center include Meals on Wheels, Kane Cuisine, mail and delivery program, home-delivered primary medical care, telehealth, limited care, care management, and caregiver support. A wide variety of social, educational, and recreational programs are available for active seniors as well as offered year-round. In 2014, the Council is the longest standing nonprofit organization in the county dedicated to serving our senior population.

For more information visit www.kancenter.org or contact phone: 772-237-7600.

Did you know?

Martin County was awarded Best Tasting Drinking Water for East/ Central Florida for 2014 by the American Water Works Association.