

Kent State University through the Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (CEBI) at the College of Business has an Entrepreneur-In-Residence program in collaboration with Aurora and Orrville at present and will be introducing the program in other communities over the next several years. The EIR receives a stipend from the city and from KSU to support mutually agreed upon objectives. The EIR works in the partner city to engage in Entrepreneurship Development (as defined) and brings the resources of KSU to assist. The EIR works at the CEBI at KSU with entrepreneurially minded students to support their initiatives and programs focused on entrepreneurship.

In the context of Lakewood's search for an EIR we would propose collaboration between the City of Lakewood and Kent State University. The EIR would receive a stipend from both Lakewood and KSU. Lakewood would screen the candidates. KSU would participate in the final interviewing process. The selected EIR would work to further the goals of the collaboration. An annually renewable contract would set forth the terms of the collaboration and responsibilities of the EIR to both parties.

A summary of how the collaboration would work:

KSU offers the Lakewood EIR access to a major research university to directly support accomplishing the objectives established by Lakewood. This access would include: bringing the skills, abilities and ideas of KSU faculty to businesses and entrepreneurial individuals in Lakewood; bringing the talents of entrepreneurially-oriented students to Lakewood to work with aspiring entrepreneurs as interns to develop plans and strategies; networking with other KSU EIR's for idea exchange and direct support; and receiving hands-on support of the CEBI teaching staff and internal EIR's.

The EIR supports the work of KSU by spending the equivalent of one day a week (when in session) on campus interacting with students and faculty assisting with CEBI initiatives, supporting their start-up participating in E-programs such as serving as a judge for business plan competitions and directing student-run businesses, bringing personal contacts and ideas to help develop and improve programs, exchanging ideas and networking with other Community EIRs and KSU internal EIRs and working with Lakewood high school students and teachers to encourage their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Lakewood has access to talent to support start up businesses and bringing new ideas to the marketplace. KSU enhances its relationship with the community and the work of CEBI. The work product of the EIR for both parties is enhanced through the synergies of the collaboration.