

AccelerateWest Volusia

“Entrepreneurs helping each other succeed and serve”

Fact Sheet

Would you like to help spur economic development in West Volusia? By intensive sharing and implementing of intellectual capital, let's accelerate 16 high-capacity local entrepreneurs to accomplish the following goals, thereby helping our entire community to thrive.

Program Goals: *75 New Jobs, \$15M New Revenue, and 16 Community-Serving Businesses.*

Program Method: Individualized mentoring of 16 entrepreneurs towards job creation, business growth, and community service. Also, Peer Mentoring Sessions allow mentees to give and receive additional coaching.

Implementing Partners: Accelerate West Volusia is a joint program of the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce (delandchamber.com) & Creating Jobs Inc. (creatingjobs.org).

Calendar:

Mentor Visits: August, November, February, May

Peer Mentoring Sessions: September, December, March, June

How Program Works:

A cohort of 16 business owners receive mentorship over a two year span of time. Pairs of seasoned entrepreneurs serve as mentors, with each as a lead mentor to two and a support mentor to another two.

The crux of the program is the quarterly face-to-face mentor visit conducted at the mentee's place of business in these 4 months: February, May, August, and November. The appropriate pair of mentors meet with the entrepreneur for two hours, asking questions and giving recommendations to spur business growth, job creation, and community involvement. Creating Jobs Inc's Business Health Profile is used to guide the mentor visits, document information on the mentee's business, record mentors' recommendations and entrepreneurs' goals, and track progress.

Lead Mentors make monthly follow up phone calls to their two mentees during each of the eight "off" months (when there's no mentor visit), providing support, accountability, and ongoing coaching.

Peer Mentoring Sessions will be quarterly opportunities for recipient entrepreneurs to utilize their significant expertise to accelerate each other. Mimicking a CEO roundtable, entrepreneurs will have opportunity to give and receive coaching around their current business challenges.