

## Small Business Council – 2008 Programs

The mission of the Small Business Council (SBC) is to serve, represent and promote the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce's small business members and to enhance the economic health of Durham's small business community. Below is a summary of programs the SBC will sponsor in 2008. Information on upcoming programs and registration information is updated periodically on the SBC page of the Chamber's website at [www.durhamchamber.org/chamber/programs/small\\_business/](http://www.durhamchamber.org/chamber/programs/small_business/) and on the Chamber's online calendar of events page at [www.durhamchamber.org](http://www.durhamchamber.org).

### **LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

The monthly "Lunch & Learn" series provides small business owners access to education and training, as well as networking. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 12:00-1:15 p.m. at the Chamber. The Lunch & Learn series is free for members of the Durham Chamber of Commerce. Bring your own lunch and drinks will be provided.

### **SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE** *Fall 2008 (presented by Cardinal State Bank)*

Whether your business is new or you are an experienced business owner facing growth or challenges, the Small Business Management Institute (SBMI) will provide you with key elements of running a successful business. In partnership with the Small Business Center at Durham Technical Community College this program fits your schedule and connects you with the information you need to run your business.

The Small Business Management Institute is designed specifically with the busy business owners and managers in mind. You may sign up for all four sessions or attend individual sessions. Each seminar is from 8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m. at the Museum of Life & Science. The cost is \$25 per seminar for Chamber members and \$40 per seminar for non-members. A Small Business Management Institute Certificate will be awarded to each participant who completes the full series. To register for the seminars, visit the Chamber's website at [www.durhamchamber.org](http://www.durhamchamber.org) and click on calendar of events.

*Fall 2008 Dates (topics and speakers TBA)*

August 14  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13

### **FAST TRACK ADVISORS**

The Fast Track Advisors program provides Chamber business leaders the opportunity to meet, discuss ideas, offer suggestions and develop both personal and professional relationships. They serve as a confidential "board of advisors" to support owners and managers of small, mid-size and large businesses with the challenges, problems and opportunities encountered in leading and managing a business.

Groups include 8 to 10 professionals selected according to business type, number of employees, years of experience and annual sales volume. Groups establish their own meeting times and locations. Competitors are not placed in the same group, and all conversations are confidential. This program is offered at no charge and is available exclusively for Chamber members.

[Applications](#) for the Fall 2008 program are due August 29. Orientation will be held on Thursday, September 4 from 8-9am at the Chamber.

### **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DAYS**

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Center at Durham Technical Community College will host four U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Days in 2008. Ivan Hankins, SBA marketing and outreach specialist, will be available to meet one-on-one with interested individuals to discuss SBA loan programs and services that may benefit his/her business. Contact the Chamber at 682-2133 or Durham Tech's Small Business Center at 686-3448 for an appointment. Appointments are available on a first come, first serve basis from 10am – 4pm.

**September 11** at Durham Tech Small Business Center  
**June 12** and **November 6** at the Durham Chamber

### **SMALL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS BREAKFAST – JUNE 5, 2008**

The Small Business Excellence Awards have proven to be one of the Chamber's most prestigious events, attracting many community and business leaders. These awards recognize small businesses and non profits in Durham for their hard work, creativity, innovation, financial success and community involvement. It also provides a wonderful opportunity for the small business owners in our community to hear an inspirational success story from a prominent business figure.

Nominated companies must be headquartered in Durham, been in operation for at least three years and have less than 100 employees. Non Profit nominated organizations must also be tax exempt.

For a list of previous winners and to download a nomination form, visit the Small Business Council page of the website at [www.durhamchamber.org](http://www.durhamchamber.org).

### **NON-PROFIT COMMITTEE**

The mission of the nonprofit committee is to serve, represent, and promote the Chamber nonprofit members and to advocate as a collective voice for the vital role nonprofit members play in the Durham community. They hold quarterly meetings and educational seminars of interest to the non-profit sector.

Committee Meetings will be held from 10-11:15am at the Chamber on January 16, March 26, July 16 and September 17. Educational seminars open to all non profits; are held in May and November from 12-1:30p.m.

### **BUSINESS PROFILE**

At each monthly Lunch & Learn meeting, a drawing is held for a Chamber member to be featured as the Chamber's Business Profile of the Month. This business will be recognized on the Chamber's Small Business Council page of the website. A link will also be provided in an edition of our weekly chamber @ a glance e-newsletter sent to all members.

### **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – 4<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Business Before/After Hours is networking pure and simple. The fourth Thursday of each month, a Chamber member opens the doors of its business for an evening of networking - no long program, just refreshments and networking. These events allow Chamber members to meet in a relaxed environment to network and build relationships and new business contacts. They also give the sponsors the opportunity to promote their location, products and services. For a schedule of upcoming events, visit the Chamber's Calendar of Events page at [www.durhamchamber.org](http://www.durhamchamber.org). If you would like more information about hosting an event, call the Chamber at (919) 682-2133.

### **RESOURCE & REFERRAL SOURCE**

Visit the Business Resources page of the Chamber's Web site for additional ways the Chamber can be of assistance to your business [www.durhamchamber.org/business/resources/](http://www.durhamchamber.org/business/resources/). The Chamber partners with various area organizations that promote the growth and development of small businesses. Do not hesitate to contact the Chamber when you are in need of information.