

Consultants Attend ASBDC Conference

Many of the KU SBDC consultants had the opportunity to meet with thousands of other SBDC consultants from across the country to network and exchange valuable information to further help our small business clients. The Association of Small Business Development Center (ASBDC) Silver Anniversary Annual Conference – “Building America’s Economy for 25 years” - was held in Baltimore, Maryland September 6 - 9. The event brought together SBDC professionals - trainers, counselors, management and administrative personnel, corporate and government partners – to celebrate the SBDC’s accomplishments and provide professional development opportunities.



The conference provided interactive workshops highlighting skill/knowledge-building opportunities, excellent speakers, new tools, and innovative ideas and strategies for working with our clients. Participants also had the opportunity to speak with many exhibitors such as the Small Business Administration (SBA) about products and services at the tradeshow. The KU SBDC helped man the SBA booth and gave demonstrations of the direct link from the SBA website to the KU SBDC on-line learning.

Ernie Post, Director of the KU SBDC, attended the NxLevelL Instructor Certification Training sponsored by the NxLevelL Education Foundation. Peter Hornberger, Martin Brill, and Judith Sen attended the FastTrac® training. The FastTrac® program provides a practical, hands-on business development program that helps entrepreneurs hone skills that are critical to creating, managing and growing successful businesses. The KU SBDC SCORE partners – Lou Davenport and Jim Albert, Lancaster chapter; Mike Atkins, York chapter; and Jim Schoonover, West Chester chapter – also attended the FastTrac® training.

The most valuable opportunity may have been the chance to network. Don Martin, KU SBDC, spoke with Walter (Doug) Gurley Jr., State Director of the University of Mississippi, Brian J Reithel, Dean and Professor at the University of Mississippi, and Violet Liner, Associate State Director at the Louisiana SBDC about the how the KU SBDC could assist the small businesses in the Gulf States that were ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. The KU SBDC has made over forty on-line courses available to those small businesses as they begin the process of starting over or repairing the damage.

The KU SBDC is committed to providing the highest quality training and consulting to our small business clients. The ASBDC Annual Conference is just one of the ways our consultants keep abreast of new and innovative sources for our clients.