



What's your **BIG** idea?
take it on!

EntrepreneurshipWeek USA
Feb. 24-March 3, 2007

For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Raquel Valdez, askus@treepartners.org

NATIONWIDE EFFORT LAUNCHED TO EDUCATE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS AND INNOVATORS

“EntrepreneurshipWeek USA” Draws Unprecedented Support from Business, Government and Nonprofits

Carrizo Springs, TX – Hundreds of organizations joined together in an unprecedented effort to inspire and encourage young people to consider entrepreneurship as a career choice and to celebrate America’s unique culture of inventiveness during EntrepreneurshipWeek USA, Feb. 24 – March 3, 2007.



Within the South Texas Region EntrepreneurshipWeek USA included a Business Entrepreneurship Center Open House event hosted by Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County (NHSDC, Inc) to inspire, educate and prepare young people, primarily ages 14 to 25, to be America’s next great entrepreneurs and innovators. With the theme, “*What’s Your Big Idea? Take it On!*” the initiative was designed to serve as an inspiration for young people to

think creatively and to turn their ideas into action – whether that means starting a new business, developing an innovation for an existing company or solving a problem that makes society better. Official events were planned in cities across the county, culminating in Washington, D.C, where the focus was on the importance of policy to the nation’s entrepreneurs.

The Business Entrepreneurship Center Open House was sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and by government, not-for-profit organizations, including Business and Community Lenders of Texas (BCL). NHSDC, Inc. hosted and organized the event to help young people see their potential as creative, entrepreneurial thinkers and innovators. Additionally, the House of Representatives recently noted the importance of entrepreneurship by enacting a Resolution ([HR 699](#)) in early June in support of a national entrepreneurship week.

“Educating our young people about entrepreneurship and reinforcing the value that entrepreneurs and innovators bring to our economy is critical to our region – more so now than ever before,” said Manuel Estrada Jr., executive director of NHSDC, Inc.

“Young people have a natural desire for the independence and control that come with owning a business and being their own boss,” Manuel said.

Entrepreneurship is a driving force of the U.S. economy. During the past 15 years, businesses less than five years old have accounted for about 70 percent of the net job creation in the United States. However, while America presently maintains the edge as an entrepreneurial society, there are clear signs of massive economic competition from abroad. More Americans in the future will need to be generating more ideas and better innovations if the United States is to stay ahead of the large populations of educated citizens in emerging and globally savvy economies.

About Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County

Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County (NHSDC) was founded in 1986 to stimulate the business development, local economy, improve the quantity and quality of affordable housing, and promote long-term economic development in Dimmit County, Texas. Information about NHSDC is available at www.ruralisc.org/nhsdc.htm.

#

