



# Incubator introduces new program to aid growth

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The Tri-Lakes Business Incubator has developed a new program to help small businesses grow into thriving, successful companies.

"Get with THE PROGRAM" will be rolled out at an open house from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 at TLBI offices, 14960 Woodcarver Road, Colorado Springs. The open house will feature a roll out of THE PROGRAM! by TLBI staff and partner organizations.

Food is sponsored by Broken Bones Smokin' Pit and Rosie's Diner and dessert by Village Inn.

The TLBI was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to support the economic development of the Tri-Lakes region by fostering small business growth. The Tri-Lakes region, is an attractive area for small businesses and residents, providing excellent schools, services and recreational areas.

"TLBI's new comprehensive business growth program includes a systematic process designed to help small business owners develop and grow their business. It is available to any member of the TLBI," states Heather McEntee, TLBI Business Manager. "Once businesses are accepted into the program, we ask that they commit to a process and meet specific milestones designed to help facilitate their business growth, until they graduate from THE PROGRAM!"

Partners with TLBI on THE PROGRAM! include: Colorado Small Business Development Center, Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Tri-Lakes EDC, SCORE, Small Business Administration, Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Colorado Springs Technical Incubator and others.

"Together with our partner organizations, we provide business counseling, mentoring, networking, evening seminars and workshops," McEntee said. "The obvious benefits of the program are business knowledge and training. What is often overlooked and truly missing for small business owners operating out of their homes or single offices is the camaraderie, feedback and the accountability of peers and managers. We provide encouragement, follow the progress of members and ask that they submit select information in order to stay in THE PROGRAM!"

The Tri-Lakes Business Incubator also offers economically priced business suites through Woodcarver Properties and low-cost conference room and gazebo rental. Local companies provide discounted business services. More information on the Tri-Lakes Business Incubator is available on their web site at [www.trilakesbi.org](http://www.trilakesbi.org).