

# CCS FOUNDATION

## The Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship Program

For many, entrepreneurship is the heart of the American Dream. The opportunity to develop an idea, pursue a passion and create a better life for themselves and their families drives many people to establish their own business or become leaders in corporate America. Unfortunately, good ideas and raw talent are rarely enough to succeed in today's competitive marketplace.

Since 1963, Spokane Community Colleges has been providing valuable professional/technical programs that teach skills needed in the workplace and further develop students' potential. Now, SCC is able to deepen its commitment to offer relevant learning opportunities through the Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship Program (IBE).

The IBE program is an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to training future business leaders and entrepreneurs. Students from all areas of study participate in a two quarter business experience and create their business from the ground up. Local business and community leaders and college instructors guide student teams through the process of developing a plan and launching a business.

The curriculum includes instruction in a wide array of areas including market research, business plan writing, sales and marketing, finance, accounting systems, business law, human resources, and leadership. The program culminates with business plan presentations to a panel of entrepreneurs, lenders, community leaders and faculty. Students are graded on the overall viability of their business plan.

Graduates of the IBE program enter the Spokane job market with a deeper understanding of the business world and are better prepared to succeed in entrepreneurial ventures or as effective leaders within existing organizations. Businesses gain valuable employees and our community is enriched through the establishment and success of new enterprises. Thanks to the generous support of Avista, graduates also have access to a micro-enterprise loan program that awards qualified applicants a low-

interest loan to assist in their business start-up costs and provide access to capital so critical for start-up businesses.

Steve Helmbrecht, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Itron, Inc. and past chair of CCS Foundation's IBE Task Force, continues to be enthused about the program. "The IBE program creates a springboard to success not only for students, but for organizations like Itron and our local economy," he says. "This program meets an obvious community need and has quickly become a key component in the economic vitality of our region."

Through the Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship program, Spokane Community College moves high achieving students one important step closer to realizing their American Dream while also enhancing the economic well-being of our region.

"This program meets an obvious community need and has quickly become a key component in the economic vitality of our region."

—Steve Helmbrecht, Itron, Inc.

To sustain this program, Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation is seeking community partners to provide scholarships, enhance curriculum, endow the program in perpetuity and add to the Avista micro-enterprise loan fund. For more information on how you can help, contact the CCS Foundation at (509) 434-5123.

### CCS FOUNDATION

PO Box 6000 MS 1005

Spokane, WA 99217-6000

(509) 434-5123 ■ (509) 434-5135 fax

[www.ccs.spokane.edu/foundation](http://www.ccs.spokane.edu/foundation)



# CCS FOUNDATION

## The Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship Program at Spokane Community College

### Program

- Integrated approach to training future business leaders and entrepreneurs
- Small business start-up program that takes students from idea conception to business launch
- Two quarter certificate program at Spokane Community College
- Approximate total cost only \$3,000 per student
- Micro-enterprise loan fund at conclusion to launch the best businesses forward

### Curriculum

- Interdisciplinary approach utilizing up to 10 SCC faculty members and 10 business leaders annually
- Instructional areas include: market research, business plan writing, business law, accounting systems, contract negotiation, systems analysis, leadership
- Student teams develop business idea and spend year creating viable business plan
- Capstone project is presentation of business plan to panel of entrepreneurs, lenders, community leaders and faculty members

### Students

- 25+ students per quarter
- High achievers and motivated individuals selected through application process by faculty and community advisory committee
- Appropriate for current SCC students seeking to open a business, entrepreneurial thinkers in the community, fledgling business owners, and future business leaders

### Learning Environment

- State-of-the-art technology
- Classroom space configured like corporate office
- Large boardroom with upscale furnishings for student use
- Individual laptops and workstations for all students during program
- Located on Spokane Community College campus

### Community Support Required

- Business leaders serving as program advisors, board members, mentors and instructors
- Endowment support to provide financial assistance for students, funds to maintain state-of-the-art technology, and resources to grow and enhance program now and in the future
- Program and faculty support to stay current with industry best practices
- Financial support for student scholarships and to grow the microloan fund established by Avista

### Results

**Graduates will be equipped to launch their own company or enter the workforce as valuable, contributing employees of existing organizations in our region.**



# CCS FOUNDATION

## Ways to Support The Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship Program

The Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship Program (IBE) at Spokane Community College is an innovative and interdisciplinary approach to education that significantly benefits students, faculty and the community. The campaign to endow and sustain this program ensures it will serve generations to come.

### Giving Levels

#### Pacesetter

*\$50,000 and above*

#### Benefactors

*\$25,000 and above*

#### Associates

*\$10,000 and above*

#### Patrons

*\$5,000 and above*

#### Supporters

*\$1,000 and above*

#### Friends

*\$500 and above*

### Direct Student/Program Support

#### Endowed Scholarship

*\$25,000 and above*

Your generosity to this campaign makes it possible for you or your family to honor a relative or loved one, or to have your own or family name endure in perpetuity. All donors will be recognized on a prominently displayed plaque in the Avista Center for Entrepreneurship. Those who give \$5,000 or more will be recognized on classroom/boardroom seating in the Integrated Business and Entrepreneurship Center.

