

# Business Entrepreneurship Network

The Avista Business Entrepreneurship Network began with seed funding to help Spokane Community College develop a successful, unique and nationally recognized entrepreneurship program curriculum that prepares students to launch their businesses upon completion.

By licensing the curriculum, Avista has created Centers for Entrepreneurship throughout our three-state service area, including Rogue Community College, Medford, OR; Walla Walla Community College, Clarkston, WA; and North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

The Avista Centers for Entrepreneurship:

- Fill a unique educational niche;
- Serve predominantly non-traditional students, with a concentrated program focused on turning their business concepts into vehicles for economic prosperity and job creation;
- Teach students the basics of starting and running a business, using faculty members, community advisors and mentors;
- Help students validate their business concepts and create business plans;
- Provide students the tools necessary to make their idea "start up ready" by program completion, which can be in as little as six months;
- Launch many successful businesses, while helping prevent the startup of business concepts that are not viable or economically feasible, avoiding the financial and personal stress of a potential business collapse;
- Create referral networks in each community that provide ongoing advice and mentoring;
- Enable qualified program graduates access to a micro-enterprise loan fund, established by Avista, for necessary start-up capital;
- Are encouraged to extend the availability of program content to those unable to attend a full-time program by creating non-credit workshops that address important business functions such as marketing, sales, accounting and others.

Small business is the catalyst of economic development in most communities. As an energy provider and innovative leader, our success is entwined with the economic vitality of the communities we serve. When small business is growing and thriving, it benefits everyone.





Avista, an energy provider in the Pacific Northwest, is improving the quality of life in our region through innovation, education and investment in job creation. The Avista Business Entrepreneurship Network is an example of how we power human potential and help create stronger, more vibrant communities.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.launchyourbiz.org](http://www.launchyourbiz.org)

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