

Business Incubator at Connors State College Ready For Occupancy

A partnership between Connors State College and Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. (REI) has accomplished the first business incubator on the college campus. Business incubators are spaces to help start-up or expanding business develop and grow into job-creating entities.

Ideal for a professional, technology-related or service business, the incubator consists of office space up to 1,390 square feet in two suites located in an easily accessible facility on campus. The office space was recently remodeled and has been state certified by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The certification provides tax incentives to the business. According to Kenneth Norris, REI incubator manager, Oklahoma is the only state in the nation offering state income tax exemption to incubator tenants.

Other benefits to the business include reduced rent, high speed internet service, technical assistance, adequate parking and access to all services of REI as well as Connors State College.

“We see this as a great opportunity to encourage entrepreneurship,” said Dr. Donnie L. Nero, President, Connors State College. “REI’s experience and expertise in incubator management is going to be a tremendous asset to the project and we appreciate their partnership in this endeavor.”

REI will market the facility and serve as business incubator manager. The organization has been managing business incubators for over 25 years and currently manages facilities in 10 Oklahoma communities.

Norris encourages interested entrepreneurs and expanding businesses to contact him at 800-658-2823 or Sue Floyd with Connors Development Foundation at 918-463-6342 about the simple application process. REI’s web site at www.ruralenterprises.com provides an overview of the business incubator program and an application is also available on the web site.

REI is a non-profit economic development organization offering a diversity of business and community services from five Oklahoma locations and is a member of the National Business Incubator Association.

Connors State College and REI are members of the Oklahoma Business Incubator Association.