

WALTER C. POTTS ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide the education and skills necessary to support and sustain a small business; enabling the community to create significant jobs, provide economic stability and to enhance the community's quality of life by encouraging small and minority businesses to stay, invest, and participate in the Lima/Allen County community.

Chairperson: Jed Metzger, Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce

Coordinator:

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Provided services to individuals seeking information; small business startup, growth and development assistance.
- Distributed marketing material for the Potts Center and State Minority Business Development Division to improve outreach to small minority and women-owned businesses.
- Strengthened the partnership between the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center, Minority Business Assistance Center and local businesses through improved training and communications.
- Continued the agreement with the Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) through the University of Toledo
- Coordinator participated in the consolidated Small Business and Diversity Committee.
- Hosted a successful training seminars for minority and small businesses interested in providing goods and services to local, state and government agencies.

2017 GOALS:

- Increase participation in certification programs for small, minority and women-owned businesses in Lima/Allen County.
- Develop a strong alliance and partnership with the Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) through the University of Toledo to better serve minority and disadvantage small businesses in Allen and surrounding counties.
- Continue the community awareness/marketing program for the Potts Center to promote services to Lima and area entrepreneurs.
- Collaborate with existing resources to conduct a minimum of 4 training events during the calendar year that responds to the needs of developing minority and small businesses.
- Continue to pursue a strategy to increase growth in minority owned businesses.
- Evaluate the opportunity to plan a successful fundraiser for the entrepreneur center services.
- Evaluate hiring a part-time coordinator for the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial
- Continue to update the current website through the MBAC Center
- Partner to develop the Youth Entrepreneur Academy (YEA) program with the Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center at Rhodes state College and the Lima Young Professional