



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Food incubator receives grant for label maker; advisory committee also formed

Label maker provides needed linchpin to place tenants' food products in retail stores

(Gonzales, LA, June 30, 2008) The Louisiana Edible Creations Center, Louisiana's only incubator dedicated to the food entrepreneur operated by the Ascension Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, has received a \$5,000 grant for label making equipment from the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation, a newly formed foundation under the Lt. Governor's office to promote the cultural economy in Louisiana.

AEDC, through the corporation's 501c3 foundation, received the grant from the cultural economy foundation to purchase a specialized printer and software for tenants to professionally produce their own labels for their food products at significant cost savings. The equipment will assist in the increased placement of Louisiana-inspired food products in retail locations throughout the State and eventually nationwide.

AEDC has also formed an advisory committee for the food incubator which will serve as an ad hoc committee providing various disciplines to tenants considering launching new food businesses. The advisory committee includes: Chef KD-Kevin Diez; Dr. John Finley of the LSU Food Science Department; Chef John Folse; Mary Gallent of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Tony Martinez of the LSU Small Business Development Center; Sarah Muller of Blue Runner Red Beans; Dwight Porrier, a Gonzales attorney and AEDC board member; Kelsey Short of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development; Mike Slaughter from C-K and Associates; and Kamal Zaher of Kamal's Café.

In addition, AEDC's Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program, designed specifically to assist food manufacturing entrepreneurs with a one day "boot camp" taught by officials with the University of Nebraska's food entrepreneur program scheduled for July 12th at Lamar Dixon, has also officially sold out. Participants from all over the State of Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida have registered to attend.

For more information on the Louisiana Edible Creations Center, visit www.laediblecreations.org or contact Kristin Batulis with the Ascension Economic Development Corporation for complete information at 225-675-1750.

