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SBDC at Rhodes State Earns Award

LIMA, Ohio – Last month, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Rhodes State College was recognized at the 2009 Ohio Small Business Development Center Statewide Conference by winning the Performance Award in the Collaborative Award category. To be considered for the Collaborative Award the candidate had to show strong evidence of creating or strengthening a collaborative relationship to further the goals of the Small Business Development Centers. The award is presented to one of the thirty-six SBDC Centers throughout Ohio.

The Region 3 SBDC created a collaborative relationship with the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Center, the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce and the Lima Area Chamber Foundation to create a downtown satellite location of the SBDC to deliver SBDC services to underserved populations within the City of Lima. The collaboration resulted in the creation of a part-time Director position for the center in addition to expanded SBDC office hours at the new location. Located in the new Center for Business in downtown Lima, The Potts Entrepreneurial Center exists to expand new business creation and support small business growth. The collaborative effort with the SBDC serves to advance that mission.

The SBDC at Rhodes State College looked at this collaboration as an opportunity to better serve the minority and underserved population who have trouble accessing the services currently offered on the Rhodes State College campus. When given the opportunity to access funds through the Small Business Administration as a result of the federal stimulus package, SBDC director Kathy Keller approached the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Center advisory board about collaborating to make the Potts Center a satellite office of the SBDC at Rhodes State College.

Since the center officially opened in June 2009, the SBDC has assisted over 30 distinct clients who have contacted the Walter C. Potts Center for assistance.

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