

EMPLOYMENT LAW LUNCH TIME BRIEFING

Cavan County Enterprise Board in conjunction with the 315 food network recently hosted a very successful lunch time briefing for food businesses. The lunch time seminar for food related businesses based in Cavan took place on May 29th at the Cavan Crystal Hotel. Speakers at the event included Mr. Brian Morgan and Mr. John McLaughlin of Morgan McManus Solicitors who spoke on recent changes in employment law focusing specifically on the food sector and issues affecting food businesses such as commercial immigration. Mr Gabriel Shalvey of Shalvey Poultry, Cootehill spoke about his experience in relation to growing his business and taking on new employees. The lunch proved very informative for food companies who attended and we would like to thank all those who attended and our speakers for giving their time to participate in the event.

E-COMMERCE SUPPORT SCHEME 2007 - FINAL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Cavan County Enterprise Board is making available website development funding for small businesses with up to ten employees. The support is designed to help small businesses part-fund the cost of creating or developing a commercial web presence or enhance the businesses e-commerce capability. The number of grants available in 2007 is limited to 15 and this is the final call for applications for website development in 2007.

If you would like further information please contact Aileen on 049 4377200. Full details on the range of grants available including application forms, eligibility guidelines can be found on www.cavanenterprise.ie.

CREATE SHOWCASE HERALDS ARTS SUCCESS

Author Colin Bateman revealed his ten secrets of success to artists at the first All Ireland CREATE showcase today. And in true Bateman style - there were really only nine.

More than 100 creative people from both sides of the border celebrated the success of the arts and discussed the challenges for the future at the event held at the Baby Grand in the Grand Opera House, organised in part by Cavan County Enterprise Board. Colin Bateman told the writers and artists that the success of his career depended on just one person reading the script for his first novel Divorcing Jack. "It all happened because one person liked what I wrote - and that's all it takes to be discovered. One person to like what you do."

He was joined at the event by artist Carol Kane from south Belfast, the creative force behind the Petals of Hope project in the wake of the Omagh bomb. "It's a great time for the creative arts right now - there is a great sea change in the view towards creativity, especially in Belfast," she said. At the event a new website specifically for artists - www.createireland.com - was launched. The site will be host to the most talented creative work in the Island of Ireland and will showcase some of the most inspiring literary, art, film and musical works of our time.

"This website is totally different because it will act as a shop window for individual artists - providing a single location for those interested in the arts to find information on talented people across the island. There will be microsites within it offering dedicated space for artists to showcase their work" - Aileen Fogarty from Cavan County Enterprise Board. CREATE, is a 2 year cross border programme designed to give individuals the opportunity to fully explore and develop their employment and self-employment potential within the creative industry sector on the Island of Ireland.

This project is part financed by the European Union through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by the Cross-Border Consortium. It is a collaborative project run by Castlereagh Enterprises Ltd, Glenwood Business Centre and Louth and Cavan County Enterprise Board.

For more information on the CREATE programme or website, contact Aileen on 049 4377200.



Author Colin Bateman and artist Carol Kane spoke to creative people from across Ireland at the first ever CREATE showcase event in Belfast held at the Baby Grand today. The showcase celebrated the success of the arts and the challenges for the future. Pictured with them are Aileen Fogarty of Cavan County Enterprise Board and Carolyne Murphy, project officer from Co-Operation Ireland.

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SUCCESS FOR 'MINI MEDICS' AT NATIONAL FINAL OF THE STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS



Loreto College 'Mini Medic' take 3rd prize and National Student Enterprise Awards. Pictured are the students: Eimear Hanley, Lucy McCarren, Deirdre Flynn, Katie Flynn and Louise Johnston receiving their prize from the band members of 21 Demands.

First year students from Loreto College took third prize in the junior category at the national finals of the student enterprise awards which took place on May 13th at the Tullamore Court Hotel. The students successfully demonstrated their medical and business skills in developing their mini company which sold first aid 'Ouch Pouch', portable mini first aid kits. The student enterprise awards programme is organised nationally by the County and City Enterprise Boards of Ireland to encourage secondary school students to develop their entrepreneurial flair.

OVERCOMING THE COMPETITIVENESS CHALLENGE

Cavan County Enterprise Board in conjunction with Longford County Enterprise Board, Dungannon Enterprise Centre and Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre, as part of the Microtrade programme, are hosting a sectoral event focused on the Engineering sector.

This one day conference, entitled 'over coming the competitiveness challenge', is taking place on July 4th at the Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan and will focus on encouraging engineering companies to focus on problem solving and consider options they have in the face of rising costs and increased competition.

The event will be a mixture of presentations, specific expert topics, individual networking opportunities and one to one sessions with expert presenters. Topics on the day will deal with issue specific to engineering companies such as problem solving, environmental impact, cost control, prototyping, reverse engineering, funding programmes and new product development. The agenda will be finalised based on specific feedback from participant questionnaires.

The event will commence with a networking dinner on June 25th. The cost of the event is €100 and this covers overnight accommodation on the 25th, conference fee and so on. If you have an engineering business and would like some more information on the event, please contact Aileen on 049 4377200 for a full agenda, questionnaire and booking form.



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RE-LAUNCH www.cavanenterprise.ie

We have recently revamped and updated our website www.cavanenterprise.ie. The website includes information on all supports and services offered to small businesses by Cavan County Enterprise Board.

The website has lots of very useful information on funding programmes available to small business, local network, useful business contacts and enterprise space.

If you need to download forms or would like information on any aspect of Cavan Enterprise Board activities log on to www.cavanenterprise.ie for all your information needs.



MINISTER MARTIN ANNOUNCES NEW 'TECH-CHECK' PROGRAMME FOR SMALL BUSINESS

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment recently unveiled details of "Tech-Check", a new programme to be delivered by the County and City Enterprise Boards. The programme will offer a highly subsidised technology check-up to small business and help them to identify ways to boost their productivity and profitability through the better use of technology.

Speaking at the launch Minister Martin said "Small businesses often find it difficult to find the right type of technology for their businesses. The objective of this programme is to help them overcome this obstacle and identify solutions that are appropriate and specific to them - we must avoid over-engineered or over-spec'ed solutions. Tech-Check is designed to be a practical no-nonsense programme. We are not here to waste the time of small business owners."

Under this programme, small businesses will be able to apply to their local CEB who will appoint an independent expert who will visit the business. Working with the owner/manager, the expert will carry out an assessment of the current

technology usage in the business and will identify the key issues, strengths and weaknesses relating to the use of technology in the business. Based on this analysis, the expert will provide the business owner with a clear, action orientated and realistic strategy aimed at developing and deploying appropriate ICT skills, systems, hardware and software within the business with the objective of delivering real and sustainable competitive advantage.

The programme will be run by the County and City Enterprise Boards and funding of €2m a year is being provided. This funding will enable the CEBs to provide access to the programme for up to 2,000 individual businesses each year at a highly subsidised price of just €150. This should ensure that cost will not be a disincentive to participation.

The CEBs will shortly be organising a series of local and regional information seminars on the programme at venues throughout the country. The seminars will highlight some of the potential benefits for small business of ICT usage and encourage their

participation in the programme. Participation in Tech-Check is not confined to existing CEB clients but is open to all small businesses in all sectors of commercial activity. Interested small businesses can apply directly to their local CEB to participate in the programme.

Commenting on the programme, the Minister said "no business - big or small - can afford to stand still in business. I know that there are very many small businesses with both the ability and the ambition to grow bigger and I would strongly encourage them to avail of the expertise that will be available to them through the Tech-Check Programme. The demands on their time will be kept to the minimum necessary but it will be time well spent. It could make that key difference when it comes to boosting competitiveness, productivity and profits and, ultimately, in stimulating the further growth of many small businesses. That is the outcome which we are all aiming for".

For more information on the Tech Check programme please contact Aileen on 049 4377200.

CAVAN BUSINESS DISCUSSION FORUM

Fourteen business owners from around the County attended the last meeting of the discussion forum which was held on March 27th at Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre. Items discussed on the evening included managing people, maximizing competitiveness and getting the best of staff.

The key aim of the Business Discussion Forum is to offer owners/managers of small businesses in Cavan an opportunity to meet each other and have focused discussions on issues of common interest with a view to problem solving for all.

The next meeting is planned for June 18th and will address the issues of reducing cost and access to enterprise space. If you are interested in receiving information on these events please contact Jim on 049 4377200.

SUPPORT FOR THREE PHASE ELECTRICITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Under this CLÁR measure, CLÁR funds the cost of the customer contribution to the ESB for conversion from single phase to three phase electricity for small business / enterprises / sports clubs and community centres in CLÁR areas. New three phase connections are also funded under this programme.

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanais), launched in October 2001, is a targeted investment programme in rural areas. CLÁR complements both the RAPID programme for disadvantaged urban areas and RAPID 11, the programme for provincial towns. The programmes

were introduced on foot of commitments in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

The CLÁR programme now applies to rural areas in 18 counties. The areas selected for inclusion are those that suffered the greatest population decline from 1926 to 2002, with the exception of the Cooley Peninsula (which was included based on the serious difficulties caused there by Foot and Mouth Disease). A full list of CLAR areas is available on the Department's Website at www.pobail.ie.

The sixteen areas originally selected

for inclusion in the CLÁR programme were those which suffered the greatest population decline. The average population loss in these regions was 50%.

For more information on the CLAR three phase electricity programme - Logon to: www.pobail.ie/en/RAPIDandCLR/

For further information on the CLÁR programme please contact Jim or Aileen on 049 4377200.

Autumn 2007 Training

Cavan County Enterprise Board will soon be unveiling its Autumn 2007 training schedule for small business in County Cavan. As always the programme will be a mixture of short one day courses and longer management development programmes.

The planned training, which will commence in September and run until December will include, taxation for small business; developing a business idea, selling on the internet, SAGE computerised accounts, book keeping, managing people, VAT and self assessment and many more.

Details of the full programme will be available on our website - www.cavanenterprise.ie from July onwards.

Further Information

All training will take place at Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre, Dublin Road, Cavan. All courses will take place between September and December 2007. Places are limited on these courses, if you are interested in receiving more information on the Autumn programme, please contact Ramona or Aileen on 049 4377200 or email info@cceb.ie or log on to www.cavanenterprise.ie