There are many **POSITIVE** things happening in Clatsop County to grow our local economy, create, retain and grow **JOBS**. This CEDR Director update highlights results and activities that have taken place over the June-September 2014 time period, as well as year-to-date advising results for our Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center.

**Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center (CCC SBDC)**
- We have served 125 business clients through September.
- Our CCC SBDC advisors have spent 909 hours working with local businesses so far this year. We have **SURPASSED** 2013 FULL YEARS numbers of 875 advising hours, with three months to go in our year!

The core mission of the CCC SBDC is to **ALWAYS** provide **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** advising.

We continue to search out more funding for CEDR as our advising is at no charge and we will need to cut back on advising if we cannot find new sources of funding to support this critical service to the business community.

Note three local businesses success stories on our CEDR website. Visit the CEDR website under "Success Stories"

Thank you to Skipanon Brand Seafood, Vintage Hardware and Lucy’s Books, for giving permission to share your stories!

**Other highlights:**
- **We launched the VIP (Virtual Incubation Project)** with four entrepreneurs and the OTBC. (Oregon Technology Business Center) Our CCC SBDC is one of only two Centers chosen in the State of Oregon to participate. This multi-month program is establishing new contacts with the Portland investor community along with local investors to support local business potential and growth.
- **Tom Leiner, SBDC advisor,** is conducting monthly "Ready, Set, Start your Business" workshops for anyone interested in starting a new business, alternating between Astoria and Seaside.
- **I was honored** to be asked to serve on the interview committee for the new OSBDCN (Oregon Small Business Development Center Network) State Director. **Mark Gregory** has been named as the new State Director effective in November.
- **Our signature CCC SBDC "Small Business Management Program"** is very busy preparing for the new year, and will start on Tuesday, October 14th. This is the official college program for our region, and has been part of the college for over 25 years.

**2014 June-September Highlights:**
- **CEDR Board President Skip Hauke and I** met with Secretary of State Kate Brown on June 19th to review economic and workforce economic concerns and successes in our region, with a focus on dedicating more state financial resources to assist the
Oregon Employment Department with both full-time and seasonal hiring needs. With our seasonal economy, we need all cylinders running here.

- **County Manager Scott Somers** held North Coast Business Park meetings with CEDR, City of Warrenton and county staff to coordinate and streamline development timelines, and submitted a "RSIA" (Regionally Significant Industrial Area) application to the State of Oregon with the written support of the CEDR Board, Clatsop County, Cities of Astoria & Warrenton, Port of Astoria and the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

- **CEDR** actively participated in the Clatsop County Visioning process, giving feedback, clarity and input on economic development matters to consultant Doug Zenn.

- **CEDR** held two "CEDR/SBDC Advisory, Education and Workforce Training Committee" meetings that included the Oregon Employment Dept., Clatsop Community College, Tongue Point Job Corps, CEDR/CCC SBDC, Pacific NW Works, and community business leaders Linda Dugan & Jane Francis. Working together to not duplicate efforts and be a united voice for workforce needs in Clatsop County. (CEDR also prepared a written recap for Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici for September 23rd workforce meeting at Oregon Employment Department)

- **CEDR coordinated and facilitated** visit from new Business Oregon Director Sean Robbins on August 4th & 5th. Economic Tour included presentations from representatives from Clatsop County, Port of Astoria, Cities of Astoria & Warrenton. I represented the Cities of Seaside and Cannon Beach with updates and information given to Director Robbins and his "team".

- **Col-Pac meeting** was held in Astoria to coincide with Director Robbins visit and Clatsop Community College hosted both the Col-Pac meeting and a regional economic "forum" that had over 80 attendees, including many of our small and large local business owners who took time out of their day to give candid input to Director Robbins, facilitators, Senator Betsy Johnson, and Business Oregon representatives and staff.

  For a full recap of the session, email me and I will send you the summary provided by Director Robbins office. We are going through the report to prioritize how we can work collectively to attack the issues that were surfaced.

- **CEDR served as the fiscal agent** for three grant programs: "Endangered Place", "Oregon's North Coast Beer Trail", and "Pacific Power- Energy Efficiency Preservation Project" (Showcases our signature Clatsop Community College Historic Preservation Program with state-wide presentations by CCC Faculty Lucien Swerdloff and Preservation Expert John Goodenberger, funded by Pacific Power)

- **The CFEDC (Clatsop Forestry Economic Development Committee)** that CEDR is a member of, met monthly and held the annual "Leaders Forestry Tour" on September 11th, with over 80 business leaders, elected officials and engaged citizens in attendance. I opened the tour at the morning gathering with a recap showing that 30% of our Clatsop County Economic Base is in the Forestry Sector, and the tax revenue supports our schools, law enforcement, roads and much more. The tour in Warrenton, Cannon Beach and Seaside showcased the partnerships between the forestry sector and preservation organizations, including North Coast Land Conservancy and the North Coast Watershed Association.

- **CEDR is working with Col-Pac Executive Director Mary McArthur** on a "wealthworks" grant project that will connect and provide interaction and tools that will assist development of "small farm and fishing initiative" for Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia & Western Washington County.

- **CEDR continues to be an active member and contributor** in the ADHDA (Astoria Downtown Historic District Association) Business Development Committee, including visiting new businesses in Downtown Astoria with a bouquet of flowers (provided by Bloomin Floral Crazy) and information on business assistance tools, including CEDR/CCC SBDC advising and workshops.

  The awards the ADHDA won last week in McMinnville at the State Main Street conference are reflective of the commitment and passion this organization has.

- **CEDR is a member of the "North Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee"**, with Senator Betsy Johnson as the convener. On September 10th, two
Critical projects were added to the existing list; Pacific Seafood & North Tongue Point. Retention of Pacific Seafood in Clatsop County is of critical importance to our local economy.

I cannot stress enough the importance of everyone working TOGETHER in all of Clatsop County to build our local economy. Did you know that 66% of jobs in Astoria are held by individuals who live outside the city? In Seaside, it is 69%, and in Warrenton 80%! (Numbers from State of Oregon Employment Department- Labor Market Information)

With our small population base of 38,000 people, we need to always be mindful that we are much stronger collectively than individually. That is why CEDR was formed, to be the "Business Connector" for Clatsop County. The future is bright when we work as a team.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Leahy
Executive Director: CEDR (Clatsop Economic Development Resources) & Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center
Email: kleahy@clatsopcc.edu
Direct: 503-338-2342