

Small Business Administration
E200Final

Male Voice: Step it up. Join the small businesses shaping the economic future. Inner-city entrepreneurs around the country are learning how to grow their businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Emerging 200 Initiative. The e200 Class of 2008 included business owners from Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Memphis, Atlanta, Chicago, Milwaukee, Albuquerque, New Orleans, and Des Moines.

The e200 Initiative is designed for small companies with high potential. What can you accomplish by participating in e200? You and your company can accelerate growth, explore financing, diversify markets and expand networking.

Listen to a few e200 graduates from the Boston Class as they share their experience.

Adrienne Benton: It was business therapy for me so it is a way for me to go and decompress and hear from other business owners about some of the issues that they are facing, some of the good things as well as the bad things, how they are managing certain challenges, and so it was a good business therapy session for me.

Dexter Miller: There were many issues that I came across during the class that I just never really thought of that are

pertinent to my business that I should have been thinking about for years that I was not because I just did not know.

Melissa Tyler: Working with other people and asking what was going on with them, just all of it is fantastic. And the networking, the people, just the help, the support that we give each other has been fantastic.

Teresa Owens-Powell: Even though I have been running my business now for 12 years, there were a lot of things that I thought I knew but I did not know. So it gives you a lot of information that you can take back to your job and use it.

Male Voice: Growing small businesses in underserved markets is a prime focus of SBA. The e200 initiative delivers SBA expertise, products and services to inner-city entrepreneurs.

Due to its success, SBA has announced the addition of five new cities for e200 2009: Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Jacksonville, Florida and Portland, Oregon, totaling 15 cities for 2009. So step it up, inner-city business owners. Grow your business and improve your bottom line.

Ronette Taylor-Lawrence: Oh, it was phenomenal. It was like a blessing in disguise. It really helped my company grow.

Frank Thomas: I would like to thank e200 for giving us this opportunity.

Christine Bernstein: It is a great program. It is like someone is handing you a gift, saying, "Here, open this because there is no reason not to participate"

Male Voice: To learn how to become a member of the e200, contact your participating SBA district office.

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