

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Support Small Business in May ... and Always!

May is Small Business Month. This nationwide celebration honors the impact small businesses have in our local economies and communities. Whether you are a small business owner or simply a supporter of business in your community, it is important to recognize that small businesses create jobs, fuel innovation and shape our local communities.

Are you a small business owner? Are you aware of local resources that can help you grow your business? Today I'd like to share a few of those resources and encourage you in your entrepreneurship journey.

#1) Small business development center. SBDC's are located nationwide and are a part of the Small Business Administration. Our local SBDC is housed at Pittsburg State University with a branch also in Montgomery County located at the Montgomery County Action Council office. SBDC's provide counseling and training to small businesses as well as provide informational tools to support business start-ups and expansion. If you're considering starting a small business, I encourage you to make the SBDC your first stop.

#2) Network Kansas. This organization is vital to small business support and growth in Kansas. Network Kansas collaborates with communities, support organizations and local leaders to drive economic development. They offer a variety of loan options to support entrepreneurs as they begin or expand their business journey.

#3) Local connections. Do not underestimate the value of being involved in your local economic development organizations. It could be a chamber of commerce, a community betterment group or even a subcommittee organized by the city ... those involved are invested in improving the community and supporting your local business. Being connected and giving back will improve relationships and likely strengthen your bottom line.

Even if you are not a business owner, there are definitely ways to celebrate Small Business Month in May. Send your favorite small business owner a thank you for all of their investment in the community, or brag about local businesses in your hometown on social media. The best way to support small businesses in every town, every day is to shop local. Online shopping is convenient, and at times necessary, but don't underestimate the value of Main Street, USA.

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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