

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHAMBER CONNECTION

SBA Initiative pilot graduates first class

By Tom Meyer

The Jefferson Chamber congratulates the first graduating class of New Orleans Small Business Administration Emerging 200 Initiative.

The goals of the initiative are to identify businesses that showed a high potential for growth and to provide them the network, resources and motiva-

tion required to build a sustainable business. The cornerstone of the Emerging 200 Initiative has been an in-depth educational program running approximately 60 to 80 hours from June through December, 2008.

Although the value of such an educational program could be placed at \$20,000, participation in Emerging 200 was free to qualifying businesses. Criteria for participation included businesses

that have been in operation for a minimum of three years, have \$400,000 or more in gross annual revenues, and are located within our community.

Participation in this pilot initiative, however, was limited to only 20 businesses in New Orleans and approximately 200 businesses nationwide.

Graduates are **Ingrid Thibodaux**, Thibodeaux Construction; **Denise Auguillard**, Auguillard Construction; **Nargis Akhtar**, Children's College, LLC; **Angelina M. Parker**, Compu-Cure New Orleans; **John Dean Alfone**, Corsair Media Productions; **Monique Foster**, Balloons2Go, LLC; **Al Hererra**, IPS of Louisiana Corporation; **Gedric Patin**, JC Patin Group, LLC; **Glen Jones**, Madison Media Group; **Marva White**, Marva and Mercadel, LLC; **Lisa Simmons**,

Miracle Cleaning Services; **Eric Hardy**, Paint Pro Depot; **Stan Kirklin**, S.C.K. Trucking and General Construction; **Cheryl Nunez**, Southern Services Equipment;

Gerard J. Maurice and Lenora A. Cousin, Sunset Marine; and **Rodney Williams**, Three Fold Consultants.

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