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## Business Digest

November 14, 2007

Students to showcase ideas and innovations  
The public is invited to join investors, business leaders, research scientists and others at Howard Community College's "Entrepreneurial Celebration," when students will showcase business ideas and innovations.

The event, which is to be held Dec. 4 on the fourth floor of the college's Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, will begin with a networking reception at 6 p.m.; student presentations are to begin at 6:30 p.m.

As part of the program, outstanding students from the college's Entrepreneurship and Creativity course will compete against the clock to pitch their ideas and plans to a jury.



Student teams from the course, Technology Transfer From Invention to Marketplace, will report on the commercial viability of several new inventions from government-supported research laboratories, such as the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight Center and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In addition to offering an Entrepreneurship Studies program, the college's Business and Computer Systems Division is home to a Center for Entrepreneurial and Business Excellence, offering applied course work, work experience and continuing coaching.

The event is free, and light refreshments will be served. Reservations are recommended.

Howard Community College is at 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia.

Information and reservations: 410-772-4785.

'Crafty Extravaganza' to be held Saturday

The Columbia chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. will hold its "Crafty Extravaganza" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia.

Jewelry, gift baskets, paintings, cards, figurines, water colors, gifts, a makeup artist, on-site facials and other vendor-provided goods or services will be for sale.

Artisans and small-business owners are invited to take part. The bazaar is open to the public.

Information: 410-381-1342.

#### Fulton firm gets contract with FDA

Quality Associates Inc., a Fulton-based provider of services for document management, imaging and archiving, has announced that it has been awarded a contract with the Food and Drug Administration to digitize, index and consolidate about 20 million pages of material at more than 20 FDA facilities across the nation.

Work on the \$20 million project is to begin immediately.

The documents relate to investigations and inspections conducted by the FDA. They exist in print, electronic media such as compact discs, and original forms such as product packaging. When completed, authorized personnel will be able to search for and access specific documents housed in a digital document archive.

#### Calendar

Sponsors sought // Kangaroo Kids, Howard County's children's precision jump-rope team, is seeking sponsors to help it expand its practice space. The nonprofit organization is seeking donations of 5 to 7 acres and a building or funds to help build a facility. [www.kangarookids.org](http://www.kangarookids.org).

Job skills // Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland will offer a program to help senior citizens learn job skills while working 20 hours a week with nonprofit organizations. The organization's Senior Community Service Employment Program is part of the Older Americans Act; participants must meet certain income requirements. Family and Children's Services has offices in Wilde Lake Village Center in Columbia and Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center in North Laurel, where it shares space with other agencies in the North Laurel-Savage Multiservice Center. Cheryl Ladota, 410-366-8351.

Two scholarships // Howard County Committee for Business and Economic Diversity has announced two scholarship opportunities for high school seniors enrolled in the county's public school system: the Howard County General Hospital Rising Business Star Scholarship and the Earl H. Saunders Entrepreneurial Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarships recognize a public high school senior who is a member of a minority group or a woman who is affected by a disability and has demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit by starting a small business, significantly assisting an existing business or developing a product. Completed applications must be received by March 7. Winners will be announced at the 14th CBED Awards program and breakfast gala April 22. 410-313-6550.

Health plan // Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce and Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are offering a limited health care plan to members. The plan, which does not require employer contributions or minimum employee participation, includes access to health care providers in Alliance PPO. Literature about the plan is available in Spanish. 301-725-4000.

Business Digest items may be sent to [howard.events@balt\\_sun.com](mailto:howard.events@balt_sun.com) or faxed to 410-715- 2816.

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