



KNOXVILLE
OVERGROUND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP * EDUCATION * PUBLIC SERVICE * COMMUNITY

PRESS RELEASE

KNOXVILLE OVERGROUND LAUNCHES COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Knoxville Overground (KO), a non-profit organization, is cutting the red ribbon this Wednesday the 18th at 7PM to announce the official opening of its entrepreneur community center at 1204 Kenesaw Avenue in Sequoyah Hills.

The center combines a social lounge with a small library containing books on entrepreneurship, a conference room, and a coworking workspace with access to office equipment and high-speed internet.

Rather than work out of a coffee shop or a home office, now anyone in Knoxville can have an office environment to work in around the company of other creative entrepreneurs and self-employed professionals. The space also welcomes prospective investors to drop in and learn about angel investing and it strongly advocates “triple-bottom line entrepreneurship” and socially responsible business opportunities in the emerging green economy.

For the remainder of 2009, the first five visits are free. After that, unlimited use of the space is open to those members of Knoxville Overground who have contributed an annual fee of \$49 or a total of ten volunteer hours to the organization. In the larger coworking movement across the US, this is unprecedented. It is being done in an effort to jumpstart relationships so that the organization can move forward to start up a second location, focused more on micro-enterprise development, at 35 Market Square.

The guest speakers for the launch party event will be Paul Sponcia, CEO of Claris Networks (<http://www.clarisnetworks.com/>) and Dr. Michael Wilcox, Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee and thought leader in economic development (<http://economics.ag.utk.edu/wilcox.html>).

The theme of both talks will be “passion is recession proof.” Given the current state of the economy, the message of both speeches will illustrate the perspective that believes why now is one of the best times to be an entrepreneur as well as optimistic about the future.

There will be live music, photographers, locally produced food & drinks, the Press, and silent auctions for “an hour of time with professionals, consultants, and celebrity entrepreneurs.”

The public is welcome to attend. A \$5 donation per person is appreciated but not required.

Knoxville Overground is supported by sponsors like the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation, Angel Capital Group, Innovation Valley Partners, Claris Networks, Orchard Advisors, and the Knoxville Business Journal as well as dozens of individuals and other local companies who believe in the importance of promoting triple-bottom line innovation, high-growth startups, community collaboration, and a stronger local economy.

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Description of the non-profit Knoxville Overground:
<http://www.knoxvilleoverground.com/about-ko/>

Invitation in .pdf format: <http://www.knoxvilleoverground.com/files/KOGrandOpening.pdf>

Directions in .pdf format:
<http://www.knoxvilleoverground.com/files/DirectionsToKO.pdf>

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