

NEWS RELEASE, [with photos](#)

UCF's Business Incubator–Leesburg and Small Business Development Center host City and County Officials at Inaugural Open House

LEESBURG, Fla. (March 1, 2010) --- The University of Central Florida Business Incubator–Leesburg and the Small Business Development Center at UCF (SBDC) hosted Leesburg and Lake County officials at their inaugural open house recently at the headquarters of the unique partnership at 600 Market St. in Leesburg.

James Spencer, Incubator site manager who also serves as area manager for the SBDC, said the mission of the partnership is to support the cause of entrepreneurship, small business development and growth in Lake County.

Spencer added that since August of last year when the Leesburg incubator started with three companies, the 4,000 square foot building has served as a business incubator sharing staff and facilities with the SBDC to maximize productivity and economic impact within the business community. The SBDC services the small business community and the Business Incubator, which **is nearing capacity**, accommodates seven companies, Spencer said.



Local leaders participating in the open house event included Lake County District 1 Commissioner Jennifer Hill; Leesburg City Manager Jay Evans and Leesburg Economic Development Director Ken Thomas.

Dr. Tom O’Neal, founder and executive director of the UCF Business Incubation Program, told the group that the goal of helping companies become successful through business incubation programs has shown to be the most cost-effective way to develop local economic growth, but it takes a team of focused strategic partners to accomplish.

“Our sole focus is to help grow local businesses to create more local employment and more local economic growth,” O’Neal said, “and some of the most successful businesses today have started during recessionary times,” he noted.

Both Dr. Jai Ganesh, associate dean of UCF’s College of Business, which sponsors the SBDC and Eunice Choi, regional director for the SBDC at UCF also expressed their appreciation for the partnerships and announced its business basics seminar series starting in March for small business owners throughout the county.

“Everything that the University of Central Florida has to offer small business owners is right here in this building,” Ganesh said.

The Leesburg Business Incubator, which provides technical assistance and office space to help promising new enterprises accelerate their growth, is a joint project of the University of Central Florida Business Incubation Program in Orlando, the City of Leesburg and Lake County.

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About the UCF Business Incubation Program:

Since its founding in 1999, the UCF Business Incubation Program has helped more than 130 emerging companies (including over 80 current clients) create over \$800 million in annual revenue and more than 1600 new jobs with an average salary of \$59,000. With seven facilities across the Greater Orlando community, the Incubation Program is a collaboration in economic development between the University of Central Florida, Orange County, the City of Orlando, Seminole County, the City of

Winter Springs, The City of Sanford, Lake County, the City of Leesburg, Osceola County, the City of St. Cloud and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council. For more information, please visit www.incubator.ucf.edu.