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Photos courtesy of CSCP Consult

Qualified Remodeler has selected the recent design and renovation of a home at 5507 Woodland Drive by CSCP Consult as a silver winner in the 2011 Master Design Awards Competition.

Home renovation project on Woodland Drive honored

BUSINESS IN SAVANNAH

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The 33rd Annual Master Design Awards competition honors remodeling projects completed in 2011.

The competition was initiated 33 years ago to recognize remodelers, architects, builders, kitchen and bath specialists and other professionals for project design and construction of residential remodeling projects in 22 categories.

CSCP Consult won the Silver Award for whole house renovations under \$200,000.

The home was judged on aesthetic appeal, construction techniques and attention to detail, functionality of space, financial success and overall impression.

A panel of judges selected the 2011 Master Design Awards winners from more than 250 entries.

how to submit

If your business or organization has an event or has won an award, go to businessinsavannah.com and complete the press release form.



More college students turn to entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship education for college students has been around for a long time, at least since the 1970s, and it has continued to grow substantially since the 1980s.

As students have become more aware of starting a business as a career path, they have begun to explore it as a real option much earlier in their career than previously. This general trend has accelerated recently as the number of jobs available to college students has declined.

And so students ask: We have a careers center for help with jobs, but what is our college doing to help us start businesses? This is not an insignificant question.

For example, the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship in the United Kingdom found that around 3 percent of its college students were already running a business at college or in the process of starting one. The data for the United States is likely to be similar or indeed higher.

In the case of Georgia Southern University, this means that around 600 students a year could already be involved in running or trying to start businesses. So what are colleges trying to do, if anything, to help these budding entrepreneurs?

Although slow to recognize the need, many colleges are starting to address these students and are beginning to see the important contribution that college-based start-ups may have on local economic development.

As usual, the private sector is moving more rapidly and trying to exploit this opportunity. Take for example Michael Gaiss' Highland Capital Partners in Boston who have launched a summer incubator called Summer@Highland, which has been operational since 2007.

The small business incubator brings eight college-based start-ups to Boston each summer and invests \$15,000 in seed funding, provides office space and, more importantly, advice from entrepreneurial mentors, technical specialists and Highland partners.

The idea behind the cre-

ation of such college incubators is that getting involved early and providing support to encourage both the entrepreneur and the business helps provide skills and experience that younger entrepreneurs sometimes lack.

Universities have also begun to address this need. Some provide seed capital, others proof of concept funds for IP protection. Some universities have mentoring programs and workshops; others have campus-based incubators.

There is evidence of many different models and approaches; it is not clear what works best.

Georgia Southern University is also trying to address this need amongst its students and local entrepreneurs by establishing an E-Zone or Entrepreneurial Zone.

The E-Zone is part of the new City Campus in Downtown Statesboro, 58 E. Main St. It offers serviced office space, mentoring, business advice, a conference room and a classroom.

The E-Zone is unique as it is rapidly becoming a focal point for all aspects of entrepreneurship and small business at the university, including our sponsored programs in the subject area and classes for local entrepreneurs led by the Small Business Development Center and the Chamber of Commerce.

Ultimately these types of efforts are about 'organized serendipity.' They work best when they draw together many of the actors in the entrepreneurial process: the students or local entrepreneurs, students engaged in entrepreneurship education, prospective investors, business professionals and established small business owners.

It is too soon to tell whether such efforts will work, but clearly our economy depends on our ability to find new entrepreneurial ventures that can create jobs, and colleges should play their part in encouraging these ventures.



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