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## SBDC Hosts 'Sustaining Your Business In Challenging Times'

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DURHAM, N.H. - The New Hampshire Small Business Development Center, an outreach program of the University of New Hampshire Whittemore School of Business and Economics, will host a panel, "Sustaining Your Business in Challenging Times," at the 4th Annual Small Business Day at the State House, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009.

Presented in conjunction with the NH Business and Industry Association, the panel discussion will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Concord. "Sustaining Your Business in Challenging Times" will offer expertise and practical information for small businesses struggling to stay afloat in this economy.

Panelists include Andrea O'Brien, environmental management program manager, NH SBDC; James Pratt, commercial lending, First Colebrook Bank; and Allen Voivod, co-owner, Epiphanies, Inc. Mary Collins, state director of the NH SBDC, will moderate. A "Toolkit for Sustainability" will be available to each person attending Small Business Day.

"NH SBDC is continually looking for ways to help New Hampshire businesses be sustainable," Collins said. "For example, our e-Learning for Entrepreneurs program utilizes today's technology to provide knowledge, tools, and resources for the state's business owners. In this uncertain economy it is even more important that businesses statewide have access 24/7 to management assistance that will help strengthen their firm's bottom line."

Sponsored by Public Service of New Hampshire, Small Business Day is an opportunity for small business owners and managers to meet New Hampshire's top policymakers, learn more about legislative issues that could affect companies' bottom lines, and receive valuable information about tools to help companies grow and prosper.

Gov. John Lynch is scheduled to offer opening remarks. Senate President Sylvia Larsen, Senate Republican Leader Peter Bragdon, House Speaker Terie Norelli and House Republican Leader Sherm Packard are scheduled to participate on the state leadership panel.

"Never Too Small to Export," presented by Dawn Wivell, director of the NH International Trade Resource Center, will help small business owners will learn why exporting may be an option for their business and cost - effective ways to get started.

The NH Small Business Development Center provides confidential business management consulting and educational programs to New Hampshire's small businesses. The NH SBDC is the only NH agency that has full-time certified business advisors providing one-on-one, long-term, management consulting to small businesses. NH SBDC is a cooperative venture with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the State of New Hampshire (DRED), the University

System of New Hampshire, and the private sector. For more info on NH SBDC, visit [www.nhsbdc.org](http://www.nhsbdc.org).

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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