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UMKC SBTDC announces 15 finalists for its Excellence in Innovation Awards Arts, Technology, and Business Entrepreneurs to be honored at third annual Missouri Entrepreneur Celebration

KANSAS CITY, MO, September 26, 2011: Kansas City is a “cradle of entrepreneurship”—providing rich opportunities and resources for emerging and aspiring entrepreneurs. The [Small Business & Technology Development Center](#) (SBTDC) at the University of Missouri Kansas City celebrates that legacy as it honors 15 finalists for its Excellence in Innovation Awards.

“The SBTDC knows the depth of Kansas City entrepreneurial talent better than anyone. We’re really at the pulse of entrepreneurship because we help entrepreneurs with the analysis, consultation, and training support they need to grow and develop,” says Carmen DeHart, director of UMKC’s SBTDC.

The UMKC SBTDC has economic development programs in technology, business, and arts development and specializes in coaching clients toward innovation. In fact, the UMKC SBTDC was recently awarded the Small Business Administration’s [2011 Excellence and Innovation Award](#). It was that recognition that prompted them to pay the kudos forward, and raise the profile for their innovative clients in arts, technology, and business.

The 15 finalists are:

Arts

- BREAD! KC
- Chris Dahlquist Fine Art
- Jane Gotch Dance
- Lala Studio
- PLUG Projects

Technology

- AndroJek
- Craig Safety
- EV Instruments
- Innovaprep
- WideBand

Business

- Flava Cap, LLC
- Luminopolis
- Matrix Medical
- Old World Spices
- Shamerrific

One winner from each category will be announced at the third annual [Missouri Entrepreneur Celebration](#) on Thursday, October 13, 2011. The winners of the Excellence in Innovation Awards will be featured in a national marketing video and on the UMKC and Missouri SBTDC websites. They also will receive the SBTDC’s Entrepreneur Training Package (valued at more than \$2,000) at no cost.

“All of these entrepreneurs are helping support and sustain Kansas City’s entrepreneurial vibrancy. They are carrying KC’s entrepreneurial legacy forward,” DeHart adds.

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