



For Immediate Release

November 4, 2015

SMARTstart Celebrates 2015 Participants

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Eleven local entrepreneurs representing nine businesses were celebrated on Monday, November 2 at the 2015 SMARTstart Program Wrap Up Event.

The entrepreneurs spent the last eight months refining their idea for a new business or working to strengthen their existing business through the made-in-Airdrie SMARTstart entrepreneur training program.

“SMARTstart helped us to think bigger,” says program participant Christine McLeod, owner of Tri Fit Training. “We opened our business to have a place to do what we love. With the help of SMARTstart, we are now building Tri Fit Training to be a successful business in Airdrie. We are so grateful to have been part of such a forward-thinking program.”

The 2015 participants recognized at the event were:

- Brandi Rosgen, InnerWorx Hypnotherapy & Psychotherapy
- Brent Park, Liquid Amber Landscape Management
- Debbie Sheffield, Seniors to Go Service
- Delree Dumont, Delree's Native Art Gallery
- Melanie Lacroix and Cheryl Lindberg, The Cat Next Door Inc.
- Melody McClain, McClain Barker Professional Accountant
- Rohit Kewalramani, Kavita Foods
- Tamara Farrell, Airdrie Staffing Solutions
- Tracy Winger and Christine McLeod, Tri Fit Training Ltd.

SMARTstart provided the participants with online business skills training, 11 in-person workshops delivered by Airdrie business experts, and a local mentor. Working with their mentor, each participant completed or updated their business plan by the end of the program.

The event was also an opportunity to celebrate the 15 local businesspeople who volunteer their time to be SMARTstart mentors.

The program is made possible with support from local sponsors including Title Sponsor BMO Bank of Montreal, Seminar Sponsor McKee Homes, and Entrepreneur Sponsors The Pink Wand Cleaning Services and Northwest Equipment Ltd. Media sponsors are airdrielife, Airdrie Echo, Here's the Scoop and Air 106.1FM/Discover Airdrie.

SMARTstart was launched in 2013. It was designed and is delivered by the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership which includes Airdrie Chamber of Commerce, City of Airdrie Economic Development, Bow Valley College and Community Futures Centre West.

SMARTstart

setting new businesses up for success

Applications for the 2016 program are now open. Entrepreneurs with an idea or new businesses (in operation for less than three years) are invited to an information session on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce office, #102, 150 Edwards Way NW.

To learn more, visit www.smartstartbusiness.ca or e-mail info@smartstartbusiness.ca.



The 2015 SMARTstart participants. Back row (from left): Brandi Rosgen (InnerWorx Hypnotherapy & Psychotherapy), Tamara Farrell (Airdrie Staffing Solutions), Debbie Sheffield (Seniors to Go Service), and Rohit Kewalramani (Kavita Foods). Front row (from left): Melody McClain (McClain Barker Professional Accountant), Brent Park (Liquid Amber Landscape Management), and Tracy Winger and Christine McLeod (Tri Fit Training Ltd.). Missing from the photo: Delree Dumont (Delree's Native Art Gallery) and Melanie Lacroix and Cheryl Lindberg (The Cat Next Door Inc.).

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