



The Biz Foundry  
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## **THE BIZ FOUNDRY HOSTS GRAND OPENING AND GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT EVENT**

**COOKEVILLE, TN**– Launch Tennessee’s regional business accelerator, The Biz Foundry, opened its doors to the public on Tuesday. The organization welcomed several dozen community leaders, professors and students from the region at their new Cookeville facility on West 7<sup>th</sup> Street for an open house event and grant announcement ceremony.

USDA Rural Development (RD) State Director Bobby Goode, Biz Foundry President Jeff Brown, and LaunchTN CEO Charlie Brock joined other local leaders in announcing federal funding geared at helping the company expand the accelerators abilities to help small businesses and entrepreneurs.

"Small businesses are the backbone to many rural economies," said Goode. "Providing avenues for new entrepreneurs to learn and grow their businesses with the help of investors and mentors paves the road for long-term growth in the region."

A Rural Business Enterprise Grant of \$12,500 will be combined with \$5,850 in contributions from the Upper Cumberland Entrepreneurial Foundation and the State of Tennessee (Launch Tennessee Program) contributions of \$25,000 to purchase office equipment for their new office opening in Cookeville, TN. The \$43,350 total investment will allow the Biz Foundry to fully expand its operations into the surrounding 14 county region.

Jeff Brown, Director of The Biz Foundry, is excited about the location and the organization’s potential for future partnerships. "The generous donation by USDA Rural Development shows a dedication to entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy. This facility will allow us to effectively interact with the region’s entrepreneurs, startup companies, and students that are interested in entrepreneurship" stated Brown.

Others participating in the event included Sen. Bob Corker's Representative Katie Davis, State Rep. Ryan Williams, Cookeville Mayor Matt Swallows, Tennessee Technical University President Phillip Oldham, Cookeville Chamber President George Halford, Cookeville Chamber Vice President of Economic Development Lillian Hargrove, Launch Tennessee President Charlie Brock, Cookeville Area Director Jerry Jolley and staff.

For more information on The Biz Foundry, please contact Sammy Lowdermilk at 931-372-1039, or visit <http://thebizfoundry.org>.

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