

# BigBendBiz.com

## Resources from the Alliance of Entrepreneur Resource Organizations

### **History of the Alliance of Entrepreneur Resource Organizations (AERO)**

The creation of AERO was the result of various conversations that were taking place in the Big Bend Region in the later part of 2012 concerning the need to provide a “road map” for entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking information and resources. Community stakeholders needed a clear path to obtain assistance in the stabilization, growth and launching of businesses in the area. In May 2013, Keith Bowers at the FSBDC at Florida A&M University convened a “Breakfast of Champions” and invited the organizations to initiate a dialogue on ways to collaborate in the future, share best practices and learn about the resources and activities each entity offered and their future plans and objectives.

The group agreed to meet every other month to ascertain the needs of the business community and identify opportunities to increase the depth and breadth of the services provided by the Entrepreneurial Support Organizations at the table. Realizing there no one organization has the capacity or funding to offer all services needed by the business community, the group agreed to collaborate services to assist businesses. That initial meeting lead to the formation of Alliance of Entrepreneur Resource Organizations (AERO).

Since May 2013, the group has created what will become the “go to” resource for businesses and entrepreneurs to obtain information and get assistance using a web portal at [www.bigbendbiz.com](http://www.bigbendbiz.com) . The site was funded as a gift to the community by The Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship and will be recognized as invaluable resource. Each executive partner of AERO listed their services and categorized them based on the level of assistance website visitors were seeking. The website is a no cost service and currently has resources from the twelve executive partner organizations. A listing of private, “fee for service resources”, is also accessible through the website under “Other Resources”. This link directs users to: [www.tallahasseebusinessresources.com](http://www.tallahasseebusinessresources.com), a community resource developed and funded by the Knight Communities Catalyst Institute.

The group is also planning collaborative seminars, training sessions and other activities to further their commitment to work together with the goal of assisting as many businesses as possible.