

Entrepreneurs – The Heart of Rural Economies

by Boundary Economic Development Council

For decades Boundary County has been a community strongly tied to its heritage and natural resources, consisting of families independent in nature and sustaining themselves through their own hard work. Although the county's economic face has changed through the years and is beginning to see some diversification, the entrepreneurial spirit is still alive and helping to sustain our rural economy. In 2002 the self-employment rate for Boundary County was 29.4% which was higher than Idaho and U.S. rates. The entrepreneurial trend is growing. Even Gonzaga University offers an entrepreneurial approach to higher education, the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, a four-year undergraduate concentration that prepares students to create new ventures.

Businesses are always looking for that edge over the competition or the tool to take their business to the next level and those resources are within reach of Boundary County. There are tools and resources available to help entrepreneurs with new business ventures or expansions. The Small Business Development Center for example offers one-one-one specialized assistance, focusing on areas of business consulting, skill training and information research. Panhandle Area Council through the assistance of the U.S. Small Business Administration has a Small Business Micro Loan Program. The Boundary UI Extension offers business plan development courses. There are a multitude of programs available to assist Boundary County's finest entrepreneurs.

If your business needs resource information or assistance contact Robin Ponsness with the Boundary Economic Development Council at 208-267-0352.