



## PRESS RELEASE

### **For Immediate Release**

January 5, 2009

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Business Retention and Expansion  
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce  
(785) 875-9301

### **Salina plans launch of new entrepreneur project**

(Salina, Kan.) Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

Project Open is for you if you want to start your own business or if you already own and operate a start up business. Project Open launch is set for 5:30PM January 19, 2009 at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Development Center 120 West Ash.

Salina has a great legacy of small business start ups growing to multi million dollar corporations. Project Open is designed to build on that legacy by encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs in the Salina Area. The project will help provide education in best business practices to establish or expand small businesses. The project also includes extended business support and mentoring services. According to Larry Powell, project chairman, “Project Open will help strengthen our local entrepreneurial businesses, position our community for economic development from within, and create a strong, friendly environment for small business to start and flourish.”

Educational opportunities are available from KSBDC and FastTrac® coursework. Entrepreneurs who successfully complete the educational component are eligible for business support services. Project Open business support includes competitive grants and mentoring support. Eligible entrepreneurs may apply for a one time grant for expansion or startup. Project Open extends further support by providing participants with a network of experienced, successful business mentors they may rely on after the courses end and they continue building their business.

Project Open is the result of extensive collaboration between leading Salina business agencies including the City of Salina, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Salina Economic Development Incentive Council (SEDIC), and Salina Downtown, Inc., as well as regional agencies including North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) and Cloud County Community College’s Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC).

Contact Project Open for complete details:

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