



BizFest 2007

Fast Facts

What is BizFest?

A program designed by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) Foundation, BizFest is aimed at teaching Latino students a variety of business techniques and focuses on: turning hobbies and skills into profit-making ventures; establishing entrepreneurial and leadership goals; creating plans for business and life; becoming effective leaders and team players; networking in business environments; identifying investment opportunities; implementing money management; and making public presentations. By attending the BizFest, students will gain entrepreneurial experience, economic literacy, improved skills in math, reading, writing and verbal communication, and workforce readiness. BizFest students will also be matched with an adult mentor who will provide counseling for future life and educational choices.

Who is hosting BizFest?

The Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative is the host along with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) Foundation and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. The local Kansas City BizFest Planning Committee Chairperson is Raul Villarreal with General Motors Corporation, and the Co-Chairperson is Valerie Coyazo with Aquila.

How are student participants selected?

Students will be selected based on their responses to an application to be distributed by their high school counselors; teacher, counselor, employer, or community leader recommendations; and two brief essays.

How many students will be able to participate?

Approximately 43 Latino junior and senior students will be selected to participate in BizFest. Participants from prior BizFests will not be eligible to apply but are encouraged to be mentors during the 2007 BizFest.

When and where will BizFest happen?

The applications are due by March 9, 2007. Students who are selected to participate in BizFest will be notified 2-3 weeks prior to the program and will be expected to attend an orientation session on Saturday, March 31st at Aquila from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. BizFest will take place from Wednesday, April 4 through Saturday, April 7, 2007 at Aquila, 20 West 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

How long is BizFest?

The BizFest training program is 3 ½ days in length. The training portion of the program will start at 8:00 am and end at 5:00 pm each day with the exception of the final day, which will end at 4:00 pm with a graduation ceremony. Please note that students may need to stay beyond 5:00 pm to work on their business plans.

What will the students gain from the experience?

BizFest students will gain entrepreneurial experience, economic literacy, improved skills in math, reading, writing and verbal communication and workforce readiness. The availability of a mentor will also assist students in future career planning. By participating in BizFest, each student becomes part of a National BizFest Alumni group with corresponding additional benefits associated with broad-based competitive access to future internships and fellowships as well as scholarship and entrepreneurship development; in essence, extending the circle of influence and support for each BizFest student participant helping each achieve his/her future entrepreneurial and educational aspirations.

What will the winners gain from the experience?

The top three winners will go on to compete in the USHCC Foundation National BizFest Competition at the Annual USHCC National Convention and Business Expo in San Juan, Puerto Rico scheduled for September, 2007. All travel and lodging costs associated with making this possible are secured and guaranteed through the USHCC Foundation.

Is this an annual event?

This is an event hosted and coordinated by The Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative. In fact, BizFest 2007 at Aquila will be the fourth. BizFest 2004 was held at General Motors in Fairfax and BizFest 2005 & 2006 was held at Aquila. We, along with the USHCC Foundation and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, are committed to this effort long-term, in Kansas City as well as elsewhere. The BizFest program will continue to be supported in other markets across the country with applied knowledge from the Kansas City as well as other BizFest implementation activities.

What local companies and organizations have invested in BizFest?

BizFest 2006 was presented by Aquila. Other local past sponsors included General Motors, Cable-Dahmer Chevrolet, DuPont, H R Block, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Girl Scouts, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Kauffman Foundation, McDonald's, PPG Industries, Sprint, Tech Prep Consortium for Eastern Kansas, and UMKC. Investors for BizFest 2007 are still being secured. With the program model having been developed over time by the USHCC Foundation, the overall costs associated with sustaining this effort beyond the BizFest training dates are generally accomplished with and through the efforts of the USHCC Foundation in partnership with local chambers and the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative.

Why invest?

The opportunity to invest in our children is now. With the right investments, we can help our youth be better prepared, become more responsible citizens, and be the promising business leaders of tomorrow. The BizFest program is a great learning vehicle to make this happen.

Who do we contact to learn more about BizFest?

Contact the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City at 816-472-6767 for more information.

“BizFest” is a registered trademark of the USHCC Foundation.