

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



July 28, 2016

Mayor, Chamber create Launch Elkhart to boost local entrepreneurs

ELKHART (July 28, 2016) – Elkhart residents have long been known for their entrepreneurial spirit. Mayor Tim Neese, in partnership with the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, hopes to optimize that spirit and launch more entrepreneurs into successful businesses.

Today, the mayor; Kyle Hannon, President of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce; Amanda Jamison, Program Officer at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County; and the Elkhart Chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) announced the creation of Launch Elkhart. Through a combination of a large co-working area, individual offices and shared conference space, Launch Elkhart is designed to provide working space for small, start-up businesses.

“Starting a business can be a very complex and expensive process. In order to be truly business-friendly, we must recognize the unique needs of start-up businesses and help connect them with the services they need to be successful,” Neese said. “We are excited to create Launch Elkhart and look forward to diversifying the market and building our economy with local entrepreneurs.”

Located on the second floor of the Chamber, Launch Elkhart clients will have ready access to SCORE business counselors, the Center for Business Excellence, the Director of Downtown Development and all Chamber support services. By providing necessary support at the early stages of business development, the Launch Elkhart facility will serve as an incubator, eventually “launching” its clients into the community after two years or less.

“The next great idea is out there. It just needs a little boost, and that’s what Launch Elkhart will provide,” Hannon said.

Rental agreements will require sessions with SCORE or the Indiana Small Business Development Center. These two business consulting organizations are likely to be the prime source of Launch Elkhart clients. IUSB Leighton School of Business and Economics will also be a partner in Launch Elkhart, providing some educational resources and possibly sending clients as well.

Over the next few weeks, the Chamber will renovate the second floor to make it more conducive to business growth. Grants from the City of Elkhart and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County will provide new paint, carpet and furniture. The Chamber will be responsible for ongoing expenses.

Interested businesses are encouraged to contact the Chamber for additional details at 574-293-1531. Rent for the co-working space starts for as little as \$150 per month.

-30-



Media contacts:

Courtney Bearsch
Director of Communications
Office of Mayor Tim Neese
Courtney.Bearsch@coei.org
(574) 294-5471 ext. 242

Kyle Hannon
President/CEO
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
KHannon@elkhart.org
(574) 293-1531