

**DATE:** April 9, 2024

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**NORTHWEST STATE TO PRESENT  
10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM ON TUESDAY, MAY 7  
\*\*UP TO \$5,000 TO BE AWARDED\*\***

*ARCHBOLD, OHIO* – Northwest State Community College celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship and the power of small businesses in hosting its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Entrepreneurship Forum on **Tuesday, May 7 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** in the Voinovich Auditorium. This **FREE** event is open to all residents of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding and Williams Counties with a business idea and want help in moving it forward.

**VALUABLE EXPERIENCES**

The 2024 Entrepreneurship Forum provides budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to **present their ideas** to a panel of experts from the region, and to **network with those experts** – both very valuable experiences. Local economic development directors and lenders from the five county area will make up the advisory panel.

**Thanks in part to grant funding by the Everyday Entrepreneurship Fund, up to \$5,000 in start-up funding will be awarded at the event.**

**REMOVING BARRIERS**

“Northwest State, the Small Business Development Center, and economic development are joining forces to invigorate small business growth in Northwest Ohio. Small business is vital to our communities. We need entrepreneurs to keep things going,” said Lisa Becher, business faculty at Northwest State. Becher is also the State of Ohio Small Business Development Center Consultant in NW Ohio and a local business owner. She has created a “semi-Shark Tank style” event that helps aspiring business owners by removing barriers to market. “The forum was created to break down barriers and move entrepreneurs forward, helping them with an idea. Many people just don't know what to do next and how to get started. It is a wonderful networking opportunity to meet with lenders and economic development to fast forward their concept. We are excited to work with the Everyday Entrepreneurship Fund and offer entrepreneurs additional financial resources in helping to build our communities!” Becher continued.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

People can register for the Entrepreneurship Forum by emailing Lisa Becher at **[lbecher@NorthwestState.edu](mailto:lbecher@NorthwestState.edu)** or **[NWOhioSBDC@gmail.com](mailto:NWOhioSBDC@gmail.com)**. Registration is required for everyone and free of charge. Space is limited, so early registration is strongly encouraged. “Free consultation services will be provided by the Small Business Development Center,” Becher said. Of note, a presentation template is required, and is available by contacting Lisa Becher at the email addresses above.

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*Northwest State Community College is an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education that has served northwest Ohio since 1969. Northwest State is committed to providing a quality, affordable education with personal attention and small class sizes. The College offers associate degrees with numerous transfer options, short-term certificate programs, and workforce training programs designed to meet the needs of local businesses and industries. For more information, visit [NorthwestState.edu](http://NorthwestState.edu) or call 419.267.5511.*