



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

February 2008

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development is proud to support National Entrepreneurship Week 2008, February 23 – March 1, and to salute the efforts of Erie-based AdVanz in coordinating Pennsylvania's activities.

Under the direction of Governor Edward G. Rendell, DCED has zeroed in on entrepreneurship as a key element of economic growth for Pennsylvania.

That's why our economic development efforts go beyond traditional business retention and incentive-based industry recruitment programs, to include programs to enhance workforce skills, invest in infrastructure, and create a competitive tax and regulatory climate. Those efforts have been successful. The Rendell Administration also recognizes that a climate that supports entrepreneurship also is essential. That is why we support startup businesses through our entrepreneur-friendly programs for business formation and growth.

Pennsylvania is blessed with strong R&D universities and communities full of entrepreneurial spirit, and we have developed a number of ways to help to take these opportunities from the idea-stage to viable companies that are producing jobs for Pennsylvanians, including groundbreaking venture capital and equity investment programs and relationships. For instance, our award-winning Keystone Innovation Zone program created geographic zones – "knowledge neighborhoods" – that align the combined resources of educational institutions, private business, business support organizations, commercial lending institutions, venture capital networks and foundations. These collaborations increase technology transfer, entrepreneurship, community development and talent retention – and create jobs.

In addition, we are keenly aware that tomorrow's entrepreneurs are in school today, and that's why it is so important to focus in on the goals of entrepreneurial education in our schools made so clear by the Consortium of Entrepreneurship Education.

You have our best wishes for success as you commemorate National Entrepreneurship Week. Your success will be the Commonwealth's success for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Yablonsky".

Dennis Yablonsky