



Columbus
Urban League

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News Release

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Department of
Development

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Restored Citizen Summit Supports Successful Re-Entry for Ex-Offenders

COLUMBUS – People with criminal records often face barriers when trying to restore their lives after incarceration. The Ohio Department of Development’s Office of Business Assistance in partnership with the Columbus Urban League supports entrepreneurship for all those who strive to improve their lives. Today, the two agencies announce the 2012 Restored Citizen Summit, which will assist ex-offenders by providing the resources and tools needed to re-enter society.

“Receiving a second chance can sometimes be challenging for an ex-offender,” said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “This collaboration offers assistance to individuals to improve their lives by providing them the tools they need to succeed.”

Stephanie Hightower, President & CEO of the Columbus Urban League agrees saying that “our role as a leader in this community, is to pioneer avenues, in support of those who are ready to be contributors to their communities and committed to their families.”

This free event is open to anyone with a criminal past looking to make a change. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the workshops run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on August 23, 2012 at Columbus State Community College, 315 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information or to register, visit <http://cul.org/> or call the Office of Business Assistance at (614) 466-2718.

The summit was developed specifically to address the needs of people with criminal records who aspire to own a successful business. Topics covered at the summit include: information on starting a business, financial resources for going back to school, child support, BMV assistance, and resume assistance. Free professional clothing will be available for all participants.

Other individuals and agencies contributing to the workshop include the SBDC at Columbus State, Alvis, Inc., New Directions Career Center, Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency, Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addictions Services, Ohio Community Corrections Association, the Firm Development Group, LLC, Urban Trendsetters, Central Ohio Workforce Development Investment Corporation, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Project Linden, Turn it Around Transportation Services, and the Ohio BMV.

*As one of the oldest and 6th largest affiliates in the National Urban League Movement, the **Columbus Urban League (CUL)** has a 93-year legacy of supporting and advocating for urban families, helping them to secure equal and equitable access to employment, education, housing and health & wellness opportunities. The CUL provides programming throughout central Ohio and is committed to engaging Restored Citizens, the untapped workforce of the 21st century.*

*The **Office of Business Assistance** leads the state’s efforts to create, grow, and develop small- and minority-owned businesses resulting in job creation and a strengthened Ohio economy. The Office also provides customized services to increase the exports from Ohio companies. The Office oversees a variety of service programs including the state Small Business Develop Center network, Ohio Business Lending Clearinghouse, the Minority Business Assistance Centers, and more.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to support business attraction and retention efforts by providing targeted investments that assist in job creation, as well as provides assistance and services to Ohio’s*

*communities and individuals. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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