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UH HURRICANE BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTER LAUNCHES WITH FREE WORKSHOPS

January 11, 2010 (Houston, TX)– James B. Evans, Director of the University of Houston Hurricane Business Recovery Center, announced today that his organization will be presenting a series of free workshops on how to qualify for a business loan. “These are just the first presentations of many designed for small business owners in the area. We are dedicated to revitalizing the businesses all along the Texas Gulf Coast that were impacted so profoundly by Hurricane Ike—all the way from Matagorda to Port Arthur. We will be operating simultaneously in all of the coastal counties of Southeast Texas.”

In addition to free or low-cost workshops, the Hurricane Business Recovery Center provides confidential, professional business consulting services, free of charge to small business owners who were damaged by Hurricane Ike. Entrepreneurs receiving consulting services also have access, at no charge, to a comprehensive business research and reference library, and the services of a professional research librarian.

Funded by a special grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, The Hurricane Business Recovery Center is a project of the University of Houston Small Business Development Center Network, which serves a 32 county area in Southeast Texas, and supports 15 service centers. The Hurricane Business Recovery Center will be operating in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Jefferson, Matagorda, and Orange counties.

“We were created as a special unit to serve those businesses hit hardest by the storm, and to act as a resource for the Small Business Development Centers that operate in the affected counties. Our expertise includes accounting, capital structure, banking, marketing, and risk management. We are eager to meet with entrepreneurs to help them assess their current business situation, and then work with them to develop a strategy to improve it,” explained Mr. Evans.

The schedule for these no-cost workshops is as follows: Thursday, January 21st, 10:00 am –noon, in Galveston, at the Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy Avenue; Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 10 a.m. – noon, in Beaumont at the Beaumont Public Library, 801 Pearl Street; Tuesday, January 26th, 1:00 p.m. – 3 p.m., in Port Arthur at the Small Business Development Center, 1401 Procter Street, and Thursday, January 28th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Baytown, at the Lee College Small Business Development Center, 1496 San Jacinto Mall. Additional workshops and seminars will be held throughout the year, in various locations in the coastal counties of Southeast Texas. To register, or to get more information on these events, call Debbie Munoz at 713-752-8463 or by e-mail at dmunoz4@uh.edu.

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