



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDA, Milestone Growth Fund, MMSDC and the Women's Business Development Center Team Up to Sponsor EMPO University's *Thriving In A Brutal Economy: Grow Your Business & Develop Your Employees Despite The Turmoil*.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, December 4, 2008—Starting out as a way to educate client businesses, MEDA brought together other resource partners in the community; the Milestone Growth Fund (MGF), the Midwest Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC), and the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) to work collaboratively and offer a training opportunity for client development.

The first fruit of this collaboration was a seminar on Professional Employment Organizations (PEOs) as a possible business model for small businesses to gain access to big business employee services. A PEO is a company that can provide everything from as little as payroll processing to a complete human resources and benefit department; PEOs can even become co-employers, adding a small employee group to its larger group to gain efficiencies. Many small businesses can make a cost-value case for utilizing a PEO, for while they can't afford to have an HR department, they may need the high level expertise that these firms can bring to the table.

The instruction of the seminar entitled *Thriving In A Brutal Economy: Grow Your Business & Develop Your Employees Despite The Turmoil* was provided by executives of EMPO Corporation. EMPO is owned by MEDA Pacesetter client Alan Reid, and is also a financial recipient of Milestone Growth Fund. With a welcome from Richard Venegar, Milestone's CEO, and George Jacobson, MEDA's Director of Business Consulting and the MEDA Loan Program, and closing remarks by Alvin-o Williams, MMSDC's President & CEO, the half day seminar was attended by over 75 clients.

"We value this collaborative effort to bring timely and useful information to our clients and we hope to work together again in the future." said Jacobson.

SOURCE: News from Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA), November 2008, Vol 2.8

ABOUT EMPO CORPORATION

Founded in 1999, EMPO Corporation is a leading Minnesota Human Resource Outsourcing (HRO) and Professional Employer Organization (PEO). EMPO has over 130 client companies (approximately 2,800 employees), and EMPO services all markets with specialties in the manufacturing, professional services and nonprofit sectors.

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