



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25th, 2009

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AnewAmerica Graduates Thirty-Five New American Business Entrepreneurs

Berkeley, CA – On October 29th, 2009, thirty-five new Americans – immigrants, refugees, and new citizens – will graduate from the Business Plan Basics for Micro-Entrepreneurs Course offered by AnewAmerica at Holy Names University. Graduates include students from AnewAmerica’s Spanish and English-speaking classes in the North Bay, and the first group of entrepreneurs from the city of Richmond. This graduation ceremony is the culmination of many hours of training, education, and preparation by our dedicated students as they work to launch their dream businesses in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency and move themselves and their families into the middle class.

The commencement ceremony will be followed by a reception, complete with cuisine prepared by AnewAmerica’s microenterprise graduates. The location is **Holy Names University’s Black Box Theatre in Oakland**, to begin at **6:00 p.m.** on **October 29th, 2009**. During the ceremony, Georgette Bhatena, Citi Community Relations Officer for the San Francisco Bay Area, will present a \$20,000 check in support of AnewAmerica’s Green Business Certificate Program.

AnewAmerica’s *Assets for New Americans Virtual Business Incubator* is the only program in the nation that provides entrepreneurs and their families up to **three years of support** in business planning, business training, business coaching, college certificates, technology literacy, financial management, savings incentives, community networks, and access to markets and capital, all within a framework of social responsibility. We link **Business Incubation** with **Asset Building** and **Social Responsibility** to craft an effective anti-poverty strategy that is responsive to the complex needs of new American women, men and their families in gaining their economic independence, achieving a better standard of living and ending their disenfranchisement.

“AnewAmerica showed me how a business is run here, in the U.S. They took me by the hand and have been my guardian angels.” - Claudia Builes, AnewAmerica client

AnewAmerica Community Corporation was founded in 1999 by a group of community leaders representing immigrants and community development advocates who saw a continuing lack of integrated job creation, asset development, and community empowerment strategies for low-income new Americans living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since our inception, AnewAmerica has served over 7,500 individuals and has provided training and technical assistance to 451 aspiring or existing entrepreneurs, helped launch or expand 180 microbusinesses and created 271 jobs. For more information on how AnewAmerica helps to promote the long-term economic empowerment of new Americans, log on to www.anewamerica.org. //END//

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