

THE MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE AND CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP at Montgomery College



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New Leadership at the Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship

Last month, the Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship, a companion organization to the Macklin Business Institute, welcomed its new director, Dr. Robert Snyder. Dr. Snyder plans to work closely with business, government, and higher education leaders to apply the College's resources to the benefit of the entrepreneurial community, and vice versa, to bring the resources of the larger community to the College's students and faculty.

Dr. Snyder has a long history of supporting entrepreneurship and higher education in Montgomery County. In the 1980s, while with the county's Economic Development Office, he helped establish the Shady Grove campuses of the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins. He also was instrumental in founding the Montgomery County High Tech Council, which now has statewide reach and is known as the Technology Council of Maryland.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Snyder was vice president of the council, where he helped organize entrepreneurship

and networking programs. For the last six years, he has worked as a consultant, advising early stage high tech firms in business planning and capital access issues. He also assisted Maryland localities in developing high tech and biotech incubators by performing feasibility studies and developing business plans for their operation, and he conducted workforce studies to gauge the education and training needs of industry.

Under his direction, the Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship will work closely with the county's Department of Economic Development to assist high tech and biotech entrepreneurs in the county's incubators and to extend services to other small businesses in the region. "The center can play an important role for entrepreneurs," says Dr. Snyder, "as a central location for information about business planning, financing, training, and other issues critical to an entrepreneur's success."

Since its inception in 1999, the Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship's mission has been to serve the needs of emerging busi-

nesses in the county and to support the educational mission of the Macklin Business Institute. Among its accomplishments over the past five years, the center has sponsored a distinguished lecture series with local and national business leaders from defense and telecommunications industries, Wall Street, and media organizations.

The center has cosponsored several seminars for entrepreneurs on timely topics, including changing markets in information technology, telecommunications, biotechnology, and on access to capital. One of its most important innovations has been developing a business development course for NIH scientists, which is currently offered at the NIH graduate school and taught by the center's first director, Jerry Feigen.

The center has also supported students studying entrepreneurship at the College, particularly in the Entrepreneurship Honors Program, and it has cosponsored an annual business plan competition for students at the College and the Montgomery County Public Schools.

The Macklin Center will be seeking partnerships with organizations that share its commitment to support entrepreneurs and the College. Organizations wishing to work with the center, or entrepreneurs needing assistance, should contact Dr. Snyder at 301-650-1351 or e-mail Robert.Snyder@montgomerycollege.edu.



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— Dr. Snyder

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