

# Entrepreneur Bootcamp

Congratulations to the Fall Class of 2012!



The Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber's Entrepreneur Boot Camp is designed to provide business assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs, increase the formation of new businesses and strengthen the operations of businesses during the early stages of development.

The 12-week "Boot Camp" educates entrepreneurs on the critical skills necessary for business growth and expansion. It is designed to provide business assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs, increase the formation of new businesses and strengthen the operations of businesses during the early stages of development. The program blends classroom and individual training with lectures by prominent business experts. Covered topics include: branding, advertising, legal issues, market research, demographics, social media, financing and loans, presentation skills, accounting and more.

At the end of the program students compete in a business plan writing competition. A graduation ceremony is held at the end of the program for those entrepreneurs who successfully completed the program.

## FALL CLASS OF 2012:

- **Silvia Albornoza-Romeo**, Consultant
- **Janet Andrade**, Green Sprouts Day Care Center
- **Donald Clough**, Health & Wellness Purveyors
- **Ashley Hart**, STEMentors
- **Keith Hornbrook**, 501(c)lutions
- **Thomas Johnson**, TRJ Engineering, PLLC
- **Nicolina Mastroianni**, Juicy
- **Denise Poutre**, Bliss Creative Studio
- **Paul Romeo**, Consultant
- **Tim Schapker**, Opus Bohemia
- **John Sigsby**, Fabled Foundry
- **Ranjith Sundaraj Chandra**, Mindtree Technologies
- **Mary Vaughan**, Preserves Bakery
- **Chris Vitolins**, Crista Vay Quilt & Sew, LLC
- **Michael Weidrich**, 501(c)lutions

Spring session begins in February. For more information please visit [acchamber.org](http://acchamber.org) and click on "Grow Your Business" or contact Janet Tanguay at 518.431.1430 or email [janett@acchamber.org](mailto:janett@acchamber.org).

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## SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

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# Tech Valley Connect Launches A New Program

## Helps Foreign Nationals Adjust to Capital Region Culture

The number of foreign nationals living in the Capital Region has quadrupled to nearly 60,000 people over the past decade. As a means to help businesses attract and retain key talent from around the world, Tech Valley Connect is launching a comprehensive Cultural Transition Program to help the growing international community adapt to U.S. culture and the Capital Region. This program is a tool to help area employers with retention efforts, as well as serve as a vital resource for incoming foreign nationals.

"Our region has been successfully redefined with its thriving technology economy. We must not only anticipate the influx of talented professionals from around the globe, but to embrace it; foreign nationals bring another dimension of quality to the Capital Region," said Michael Wacholder, chairman of Tech Valley Connect's Board of Directors and retired director of the Rensselaer Technology Park.

The TVCTP works with international newcomers on culture, customs, traditions, government, health care, education and household information. It serves as a regional hub of information in terms of connecting people with local ethnic resources such as affinity groups, ethnic markets, restaurants and provides learning opportunities geared toward the specific needs and interests of families who are coming from outside the United States. Veysel Ucan, executive director of the Turkish Cultural Center of Albany said, "People have many difficulties and challenges when they move to a new culture. I believe the Cultural Transition Program is a great initiative to help the newcomers adapt to the American culture and be a part of the greater community. This program will be beneficial for individuals as well as organizations in many different ways."

Tech Valley Connect is a non-profit organization made up of employers focused on retention efforts to make the program more holistic by expanding into this area. During the pilot phase of the Cultural Transition Program, the organization found at least 20 percent of their hires were foreign nationals.

The program launches at a time when the international population of the Capital Region is growing. More than 75 percent of these people are private waged and salaried workers. Those in management, business, science and arts occupations make up more than 44 percent, and these same foreign nationals represent a household income that averages \$51,599.

Contact Diane Conroy-LaCivita at 518.283.1812 or [dcl@techvalleyconnect.com](mailto:dcl@techvalleyconnect.com) for more information on how the Cultural Transition Program can benefit your company and its employees. •