

August 7, 2006

**Seventeen businesses started after training sessions  
of Chester County Self Employment Assistance Program**  
*Chester County Economic Development Council, Kutztown direct program*

**EXTON** \_ The Chester County Self Employment Assistance Program has resulted in 17 new businesses being started.

“A large portion of our economy is based on entrepreneurship,” said Gary Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chester County Economic Development Council. “This program offers valuable assistance to those looking for a new career and starting a business.”

The CCEDC just finished its 4<sup>th</sup> year administering the SEA Program. Of the 37 persons who entered the training in 2005-06, 29 completed the courses.

The businesses started include multi-media consulting, custom auto refurbishing, a financial advisor, furniture distribution, tax assessment consulting, a custom picture frame shop, a contract welding operating, an educational consultant, a software developer, a retail store, network installation and connectivity services, construction services and a custom jewelry store.

The program is run by the Economic Development Council and Kutztown University Small Business Development Center. The program provides entrepreneurial training to Chester County residents receiving unemployment compensation and unlikely to find work before benefits conclude. Participants can continue to receive unemployment benefits while in the program. The nine-week training is conducted at the Economic Development Council.

To receive all of the eligibility criteria contact Courtney O’Donnell at the Economic Development Council at 610-458-5700 ext. 219.

The Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for more than 40 years. The Council’s portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eagleview. For more information, see [www.cceconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.cceconomicdevelopment.com).