



Opening Statement of Chairman Tom Rice
House Committee on Small Business
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access
Hearing: “Private Sector Initiatives to Educate Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs”
September 19, 2013

Good Morning. The hearing will come to order.

Today, we will explore the importance of education and training for small business owners and entrepreneurs, and highlight examples of the private sector imparting knowledge to growing small businesses around the nation.

Half of all small businesses fail five years after opening, and recent research has shown that newly formed small businesses are creating fewer jobs than in the past. Analysts cite a lack of general business acumen, and an inability to adapt to rapidly changing economic environments, as a reason for the challenges they so often face. Since historically, small businesses have been responsible for over two-thirds of new job creation in this country, it is critical that we ensure our nation’s entrepreneurs are receiving the educational and training opportunities that provide the knowledge, and in turn the confidence, they need to grow.

Education for those looking to start or grow their business comes in many forms. Whether it is through a classroom environment, online course, mentorship provided in an incubator or accelerator, or networking through peer-to-peer programs, small businesses are using these avenues to gain the knowledge, expertise, and personal connections to help them grow their business and hire more employees.

There are numerous examples of the private sector stepping up around the country to provide both established, and fledgling small businesses with the information they need to not only survive, but also grow and create jobs. Today, we will hear about some of these initiatives, and how they assist our nation’s job creators.

We are fortunate to have here with us some of the leaders that help to address the critical knowledge gap facing small business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as an entrepreneur that has participated in and benefited from such efforts. I look forward to learning first-hand from our witnesses today about how their work has helped to stimulate economic growth and create jobs around the country. Thank you for being here.

I now recognize the Ranking Member for her opening statement.