Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District
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Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

Rep. Shuler Announces Federal Loan for Mountain BizWorks
Program will Provide Assistance to 30 Rural Businesses Creating 50 Jobs

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler announced today that Mountain BizWorks of Asheville has received a $500,000 federal loan through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist local entrepreneurs and beginning businesses.

With this USDA loan Mountain BizWorks will be able to provide up to thirty rural businesses with Microloans to expand their operations and create as many as fifty new jobs.

"Entrepreneurs and small businesses are the key to Western North Carolina's economic health in the years ahead. I applaud Mountain BizWorks for the invaluable assistance they provide to local small businesses, and I look forward to working closely with them in the future," said Rep. Shuler.

As an entrepreneur and chairman of the Small Business Committee's Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship subcommittee, Rep. Shuler is committed to preserving and extending the Microloan program and other important initiatives for rural businesses.

Greg Walker-Wilson, CEO of Mountain BizWorks was excited about the potential for business development these loans represent. "Thanks to this USDA investment, we can get much needed capital in the hands of small businesses in Western North Carolina who have good business concepts but who don't yet qualify for bank financing," Walker-Wilson said.

Mountain BizWorks, is a 501(c)3 federally recognized non-profit organization, that has been helping entrepreneurs since 1989 through financing, business instruction, and on-going support. They have provided business training to nearly 3000 entrepreneurs, assisted in the establishment of over 1000 locally-owned businesses, and loaned over $1 million to entrepreneurs who were unable to obtain capital from traditional lending institutions.

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