Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs Announces
2014 Capacity Development Fund Winners

Four grants awarded to further strengthen and support the small and growing business ecosystem

The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) announced the winners of the sixth round of the ANDE Capacity Development Fund (CDF). Commenced in 2009, the fund seeks to increase the productivity and effectiveness of ANDE members, while creating tools and insights that can help the small and growing business (SGB) sector as a whole. This round awarded four grants totaling $200,000, with each winner receiving $50,000. Total funds disbursed over the past five years now reach $2.3 million.

Support for this year’s fund was provided by The Lemelson Foundation and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Initiative. Proposed solutions were evaluated for their clarity; feasibility and internal capacity; and impact on small and growing businesses. This CDF round put additional emphasis on funding proposals targeting invention-based enterprises and women’s entrepreneurship.

The four winning projects included:

- **From Inventor to Entrepreneur– NESst with The Global Social Benefit Incubator at Santa Clara University**
  How can we develop sustainable, scalable social enterprises without appropriately skilled managers to lead them and sufficient talent to operate them? This chronic sector-wide challenge is especially keen in invention-based enterprises, where leaders, by default, typically have a background in science or technology rather than business administration. The proposed project will address these talent and management issues by developing, testing, launching, and sharing a talent assessment tool and parallel training module for invention-based small and growing businesses (SGBs) and the intermediaries that support them. Equipped with a tool to assess their talent and leadership needs (and sufficiently trained in its use), inventors and entrepreneurs can build the management teams they need to launch, scale, and achieve greater economic and social impact.

- **Prototyping and Customer Feedback – IDEO.org**
  IDEO.org proposes to design and develop a tool to support science and tech invention SGBs to become more customer centered. The tool will build off of IDEO.org’s existing human-centered design curriculum to focus specifically on customer insights and prototyping, the two phases in the design process most critical to product and invention development.
• **Empowering African women entrepreneurs through practical and accessible learning and development** – consortium led by AMI.

  This project will empower at least 1,000 African women entrepreneurs through practical, accessible and locally relevant online learning and development tools, and will work with 100 women through a more hands-on innovative online/offline model to help them scale their businesses and secure loan or investment capital. The program will include an introductory practical MOOC-style course in entrepreneurship for women, delivered for FREE online to at least 1,000 women entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs in Africa.

• **Web-Based tool to enable Women-based SGBs improved loan approval rate** - Intellecap with Intellegrow

  This project will create a web-based tool that will equip women-owned SGBs with (a) resources - case studies, best practices, checklists and peer feedback to enable them to prepare a strong loan application document (b) information on financial institutions in close proximity of business, financial products offered and loan application process (c) get recommended by angel investors and mentors. The tool will also enable financial institutions develop granular understanding of women-owned SGBs in their proximity and develop tailored financial products. The web-based tool will be piloted tested in India with support from IntelleGrow and other partners.

The winners were announced at ANDE’s Annual Conference, held from September 29th to October 1st. The conference is an annual gathering of more than 200 high-level executive from ANDE member organizations including leading investors, capacity development providers, foundations, banks, corporations and research institutions from more than 20 countries.

The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) is a global network of organizations that propel entrepreneurship in emerging markets. ANDE members provide critical financial, educational, and business support services to small and growing businesses (SGBs) based on the conviction that SGBs will create jobs, stimulate long-term economic growth, and produce environmental and social benefits. Ultimately, ANDE believes that SGBs can help lift countries out of poverty. ANDE is part of the Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization. For more information please visit [www.aspeninstitute.org/ande](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/ande)

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