



***Invitation to the “Building a Regional Culture of Entrepreneurship”  
Webinar  
January 31, 2013, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.***

A webinar on building regional entrepreneurship systems will be held on Thursday, January 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Supported by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to the bi-state “State of Ingenuity” regional collaborative, the webinar will feature three national experts who will share their strategies for building a culture of entrepreneurship and how their approaches could be adapted to other regions.

**Jack Newcomb** will describe his entrepreneurship work in Kansas and other states that began as the QUAD Facilitation Program. **Brad Feld**, serial entrepreneur and author, will provide lessons learned from his Boulder (Colorado) Thesis, will. The webinar will be moderated by **Don Macke**, director of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Brief biographical sketches are provided below.

This is the first in a series of webinars that is being developed by Northern Illinois University in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the SOI project coordinator, and other SOI partners. The six-county SOI region located in southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois. The purpose of SOI is to develop a seamless network of entrepreneurial support that will help diversify the regional economy through business and industry growth and retention in existing and emerging clusters.

This webinar is open to other organizations and individuals interested in learning about innovative entrepreneurial approaches. To register for the webinar and receive access information and links to important background material, visit <http://bit.ly/EntrepreneurshipWebinarRSVP>. The webinar will be recorded and posted on [www.soisourcelink.com](http://www.soisourcelink.com)<<http://www.soisourcelink.com/>>.

### **Panelist Biographical Sketches**

**Jack Newcomb.** Jack currently serves as the Facilitator for the QUAD Enterprise Facilitation Program, and is Co-founder of Advancing Rural Prosperity, Inc. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Network Kansas, a statewide entrepreneurship organization. He has over 30 years’ management experience, including the operation of several small businesses and corporate responsibilities in human resources, finance/administration, contracts, contractor compliance, audits, and information services in the private and government sectors.

Since 2002 he has been coaching entrepreneurs who want to start or expand businesses in southeast Kansas. He also teaches and mentors other business coaches in his role as a Master Facilitator. Jack helped implement the Kansas Hometown Prosperity Initiative, and is now providing community coaching to rural areas across the state as part of the Kansas Entrepreneurial Communities Initiative.

**Brad Feld.** Brad's career as an early stage investor and entrepreneur began in 1987 when he founded Feld Technologies, a firm specializing in custom software applications. After his company was acquired by AmeriData Technologies, Brad served as chief technology officer before moving back into the entrepreneurial world. He moved on to found Intensity Ventures, a company that helped launch and operate software companies, and then co-found Mobious Venture Capital, Tech Stars, and Foundry Group, where he now serves as Managing Director.

Brad serves on the boards of BigDoor, Cheezburger, Fitbit, FullContact, Gnip, MakerBot, MobileDay, Modular Robotics, Oblong, Orbotix, SEOMoz, Standing Cloud, and Yesware for Foundry Group. He helped develop the MIT Center for Entrepreneurship and advises a variety of high tech startup companies. He has been active in non-profit organizations and chairs the National Center for Women and Information Technology, co-chairs Startup Colorado, and is on the board of Startup Weekend.

**Don Macke.** Don is the director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, ([www.energizingentrepreneurs.org](http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org)), an organization working in the U.S. and Canada to support research, outreach, professional development, and policy related to rural entrepreneurship and is part of the Rural Policy Research Institute, ([www.rurpri.org](http://www.rurpri.org)) a leading national rural research and policy think tank. Don has over 35 years of experience in rural community economic development. He has served in the Nebraska Legislature; the cabinet of the Nelson Administration in Nebraska, and consulted in nearly 40 states, Canada, and the Caribbean.

A central part of Don's work focuses on community development philanthropy and America's transfer of wealth opportunities. He is a co-founder of the Nebraska Community Foundation and served as its first Executive Director.

## Recommended Background Information

Website: [www.nebcommfound.org/programs-research/hometown-competitiveness](http://www.nebcommfound.org/programs-research/hometown-competitiveness)

News Release: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/STELPRD4017919.html>)

Book: Startup Communities: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Your City.  
<http://startuprev.com/communitiesbook>

Video: StartupVille Kauffman Foundation Sketchbook - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXD5vt0xhyl>

## Additional Information

Questions about the webinar may be directed to Sandra Streed at (815) 753-1403 or [smstreed@niu.edu](mailto:smstreed@niu.edu).