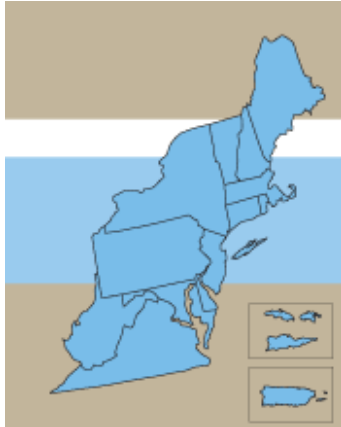


## Mike Thielke

**From:** EDAPRO [JGarcia@eda.doc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2011 3:27 PM  
**To:** mike@ventureahead.org  
**Subject:** Prospective 12-2011



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### PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL OFFICE

*Regional Director:* Willie C. Taylor | (215) 597-4603

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011



"SUCCESS SEEMS TO BE CONNECTED WITH ACTION. SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE KEEP MOVING. THEY MAKE MISTAKES, BUT THEY DON'T QUIT."

-Conrad Hilton

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME!

Thank you to those grantees who have submitted articles and pictures to be featured in "The Prospective." As we go into the New Year, we want to remind you, our grant recipients, partners and stakeholders, that we love to hear from you! If you would like to submit

## Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center Update

*Special thanks to Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center for submitting this article.*

By leveraging and building upon an EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance grant for \$60,000 awarded in 2005, the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) in Easton, Maryland continues to grow in its capacity and ability to provide rural business owners and entrepreneurs with access to capital, technical assistance, and training.



Begun in 2006 by the Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC), a tri-county economic development organization serving the Maryland Mid-Shore counties of Carroll, Dorchester, and Talbot which also holds designation status as an Economic Development District, ESEC was the product of a 2004 Economic Adjustment Assistance response to the closing of a major employer in the region. With the assistance of funding during the initial two years of operation, ESEC was able to establish a loan fund and provide technical assistance to individuals interested in starting business.

Reaching beyond the initial Mid-Shore counties, the organization has extended the availability of its services and programs to the three Lower Shore counties of Wicomico, and Worcester. The introduction of ESEC into these additional counties occurred with the help and cooperation of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Shore of Maryland (TCCLES), a sister economic development organization as well as an EDA Economic Development District partner.

ESEC's contribution to the development of new startup businesses includes an entrepreneur training series (ShoreVenture) of ten-week sessions modeled after the Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac® program. Three series of sessions have been held at Chesapeake College in the Mid-Shore since 2009 with as many as 30 budding entrepreneurs in each class. These initial sessions were funded with EDA assistance.

an article for inclusion in "The Prospective" contact Jennifer Garcia at JGarcia@eda.doc.gov. Please remember that submissions are used solely at the discretion of EDA and we reserve the right to edit the articles for content and space.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

From your Friends at EDA.



During this time ESEC grew its partnerships in executing the training to include the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), SCORE, and Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Following the success at Chesapeake College the training program is now being offered at Wor-Wic Community College in the Lower Shore. The next series of classes which will be held in January and March 2012 at both community colleges are currently being promoted.

In addition, ESEC was recently awarded a nationally competitive USDA RMAP (Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program) of \$500,000 to replenish revolving loan funds as well as \$105,000 grant for technical assistance. These technical assistance funds combined with a \$100,000 award by a local private foundation are helping ESEC reach its targeted goal of raising \$325,000 in operating revenue this year. Thus far \$220,000 has been achieved through federal, state, and private sector sources.

With the increased capacity represented by the growing and sustaining financial support, ESEC is strategically pursuing a prominent role in the region relative to business and job growth. ESEC's vision of developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem of technical assistance, training, and capital for Maryland's Eastern Shore is well on the way.

Spring 2011 ESEC held an entrepreneur training class (ShoreVenture) at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland. A very diverse group of individuals interested in starting new businesses attended 10 weeks of classes that help them develop the skills sets and resources necessary to entrepreneurial success, including development of a business plan.

## RESOURCES

[Economic Development Administration](#)

[Commerce Connect](#)

[StartUp America Partnership](#)

[Regional Innovation Acceleration Network \(RIAN\)](#)



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## University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center

*Special thanks to the University of Maine for submitting this article.*

The era of dedicated research and integration of composite materials in energy, infrastructure, and defense, has spurred economic development and—most importantly in the current economic climate—jobs. At the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, researchers are exploring opportunities for innovative new research programs, while developing products that improve quality of life for people around the world.



The rapid and global growth in markets for new materials, technologies, and manufacturing processes for the offshore wind industry has created a need for a multi-faceted laboratory with integrated research, development, testing, and demonstration capabilities. Through a \$3 million grant from the Economic Development Administration, as well as additional funding from the Department of Commerce, UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center has expanded to meet this demand.

The 8,100 m<sup>2</sup> (87,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), \$100 million research center has world-leading capabilities to design, manufacture and test large high-performance hybrid composite structures under one roof. Examples include up to 70 m (230 ft) wind blades, towers, airplane wings, bridge girders, ship hulls, offshore wind foundations, and tidal energy turbines. Coupled mechanical and environmental testing potential opens the door for researchers to more accurately determine the effects of the offshore environment. The newly expanded

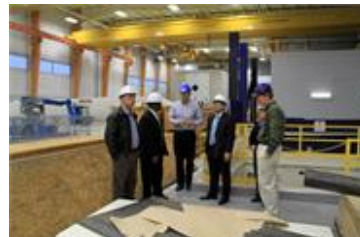
center offers researchers a one-stop shop to develop the next generation of materials and technologies capable of harnessing the powerful winds in the waters off the U.S. coast.

Currently, the ISO 17025 accredited laboratory employs 140 personnel with expertise in large-scale and coupon-level testing, composites manufacturing and analysis, FEA and other modeling techniques, model testing, and more. These personnel, academic researchers, engineers and scientists and other staff, as well as both graduate and undergraduate University of Maine students, are engaged in a variety of research projects, in addition to wind energy.

The Center has been developing composite materials for public infrastructure applications for over a decade. One signature product is the Bridge-in-a-Backpack™, a lightweight, corrosion-resistant system for short to medium span bridge construction using FRP composite arch tubes that act as reinforcement, formwork and environmental protection for cast-in-place concrete. When filled with concrete, the arches provide superior strength and redundancy resulting in increased bridge safety and longevity. Advanced Infrastructure Technologies ([www.aitbridges.com](http://www.aitbridges.com)), located in Orono, Maine, is now commercializing the bridge system.

AEWC has also collaborated in the development and testing of a hybrid composite beam – the HC Beam – an innovative composite bridge girder that acts as a stay-in-place form for a concrete arch. The lightweight composite girder is shipped to the bridge site, then erected and filled with concrete. This technology has recently been used in the construction of the 560 ft long Knickerbocker Bridge in Boothbay, Maine, the longest composite bridge in the world.

The Center's research portfolio also includes: the development of composite solutions for the US Army including advanced ballistic materials for tent protective structures, rigidified inflatable structures, rapidly deployable bridges and modular building components; the design and construction of an 83 ft composite hull high speed interceptor craft for the Navy Seals; basic research into the synthesis, treatment, processing and analysis of nanocomposite materials which show promise for enhancing the strength and other desirable properties of traditional materials; and, the development and manufacture of bio-based composite decking, beams and retaining walls.



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## EPA Requests Proposals for Urban Waters Small Grants

*Deadline for submitting proposals: January 23, 2012*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects to award between \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The funding is part of EPA's Urban Waters program, which supports communities in their efforts to access, improve, and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land. Healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational and employment opportunities in nearby communities.

The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants program is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Education and training for water quality improvement or green infrastructure jobs
- Public education about ways to reduce water pollution
- Local water quality monitoring programs
- Engaging diverse stakeholders to develop local watershed plans
- Innovative projects that promote local water quality and community revitalization goals

Information about Urban Waters Small Grants including the Request for Proposal (RFP) and registration links for the webinars is available at

<http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding>. EPA expects to award the grants in Summer 2012.

Note to Applicants: In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement. Questions must be submitted in writing via e-mail to [urbanwaters@epa.gov](mailto:urbanwaters@epa.gov) and must be received by the Agency Contact, Ji-Sun Yi, by January 16, 2012 and written responses will be posted on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding>.

Dates to Remember:

- Deadline for submitting proposals: January 23, 2012.
- Two webinars about this funding opportunity: December 14, 2011 and January 5, 2012.
- Deadline for submitting questions: January 16, 2012

Related Links:

- For more information on EPA's Urban Waters program, visit <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters>.
- EPA's Urban Waters program supports the goals and principles of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a partnership of 11 federal agencies working to reconnect urban communities with their waterways. For more information on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, visit <http://urbanwaters.gov>.

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## Contact Us

### *Your Philadelphia Regional Office*

EDA's Economic Development Representatives are here to help potential applicants understand EDA's programs and provide technical assistance to your region.

They are your first point of contact for EDA, so give



them a call or send them an email. You can find their contact information [here](#).

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