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New Inventors' Networking Group Kicking Off with Free Seminar

MIDLAND (February 9, 2007) — The MidMichigan Inventors Group will hold its inaugural event at the Valley Plaza Great Hall Commodore Room in Midland, Wednesday, February 28, 6-8 p.m. Creative people with ideas for novel products will come together to discuss the challenges in turning an idea into a product, and then getting that product to market. All those interested are welcome to attend.

“There are a many innovative people in the region that have ideas for new or improved products, but they are often unaware of the process, options, and resources required to convert an idea into a viable product,” said Brent Case, executive director for the MidMichigan Innovation Center. “The event is being held to bring imaginative people together to support one another, share experiences, and provide helpful information that will improve their chances of turning their novel ideas into real products.”

There are five or more similar groups around Michigan, including networks based in East Lansing, Muskegon, St. Clair, Grand Blanc and Flint. “We have attended inventor meetings in Flint and recognized the value of having something similar to the Inventors Council a bit further north. We hope to attract innovative thinkers that may not be aware of other inventor groups, but are interested in networking with other inventor-types in the mid-Michigan area,” said Christine Greve, regional director for the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, located at Delta College.

This event is open to the public and free of charge, but registration is required. Two successful inventors, John Brock, and Tom Simon, will share how they converted their ideas into product and the challenges they faced getting them to market.

John Brock, inventor of the First Look™ Automotive Diagnostic Sensors, will share his experiences of forming a business around his invention, securing investors and forming a stock company. (See also www.senxtech.com)

Tom Simon, inventor of Poultry Pal® roasters, has insights as a do-it-yourselfer who put together his business based on his invention. (See also www.beercanicken.com)

Robert McKellar, intellectual property attorney, will discuss issues regarding patents and other methods to protect ideas.

The program is sponsored by several mid-Michigan organizations that support commercialization efforts to spur economic development in the region. Organizers for the event are from Saginaw Valley State University's Center for Business & Economic Development, the Small Business Development & Technology Center, the MidMichigan Innovation Center, and McKellar IP Law. Sponsorship for the event is being provided by the MidMichigan Innovation Team, a 13-county regional effort supported by the U.S. Department of Labor through a WIRED grant.

To register for this free seminar, or for more information regarding the event or the organization, please contact Linda Haas at SVSU at 989-964-7015 or lhaas@svsu.edu.

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