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Date: October 3, 2011
 Contact: Lindsay Gladstone
 Governors State University
 Phone: (708) 534-7090
 Fax: (708) 534-8399
 Email: lgladstone@govst.edu

For Immediate Release

Business Consultants Join CenterPoint at Governors State

University Park, Illinois, October 3, 2011 – CenterPoint at Governors State University is adding three local consultants to assist Chicago Southland residents in developing, growing, financing, and improving their businesses.

The consultants, all seasoned business professionals, will regularly conduct free seminars and counseling sessions in locations throughout the south suburbs.

CenterPoint, the leading provider of economic development services in the Southland, is offering the consultant services through a federal grant funded by the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. CenterPoint Director Hillary Burkinshaw said the health of small businesses is vital to the nation's economic recovery.

"Our consultants bring a wealth of practical experience to the region's small business owners," Burkinshaw said. "It's very important that local small businesses have services that help them grow and prosper and we are pleased to bring these services directly into Southland communities."

Judi Mack specializes in marketing and will serve CenterPoint's western area, including Frankfort, Mokena, Manhattan, Lemont, and nearby towns. Mack, with the support of Old Plank Trail Community Bank, has scheduled a seminar and consulting hours in October and is setting dates in November. She will conduct her first seminar, Starting a Business in Illinois, on Monday, October 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and offer counseling on Wednesday, October 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. Both sessions take place at Old Plank Trail Community Bank, 20901 S. LaGrange Road, Frankfort.

Dan McAllister specializes in sales and finance and will serve the northern area, including Tinley Park, Orland Park, Oak Lawn, Blue Island, and nearby towns. He will be available twice a month at Tinley Park Village Hall's Kallsen Center, 16250 Oak Park Avenue. With support from the Village of Tinley Park, McAllister is offering a Starting Business in Illinois seminar on Wednesday, October 12, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and counseling on Wednesday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Elliott Johnson specializes in business development and will serve the eastern area, including Matteson, Markham, Olympia Fields, Homewood, and nearby towns. Burkinshaw said the consultants are building contacts in their communities so they can offer regular hours as the program develops.

To make appointments with the consultants, or to reserve a spot at a seminar, contact Runisia Henry at (708) 534-4927.

CenterPoint at Governors State University is an Illinois Small Business Development Center offering professional assistance, counseling, relevant training, and ongoing support services to entrepreneurs. CenterPoint is a service of Governors State University with grant support from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the U.S. Small Business Administration. More information about CenterPoint services is available at www.centerpointgsu.com.