

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Midlands Venture Forum announces Venture Mentoring Program

Omaha, NE - February 24, 2011 - During National Entrepreneurship Week, the Midlands Venture Forum (MVF), a non-profit organization focused on fostering high growth businesses in Nebraska, announced a new Venture Mentoring Program. The free program matches successful entrepreneurs and advisors with businesses with high growth potential. Prospective participants can apply for the program on the organization's new website at www.mvforum.com. Selected companies will present to the program's full mentoring team for consideration. All presenters will receive valuable feedback from the group, regardless of whether they are eventually selected. A majority of the mentors must approve the company, with a lead mentor volunteering to lead the effort. A mentoring team will then be formed based on the needs of the company, with regular meetings scheduled based on company progress.

The program is designed to be complementary to other public and private efforts supporting high growth businesses in the region. "We designed the program with the aim of filling gaps in the local high growth environment, while being careful to not duplicate efforts" added John Gustafson, president of the organization's Board of Directors, "In fact we are collaborating with a number of other organizations to provide a more organized continuum of services."

Mentors in the program have run, founded, or invested in high growth businesses. A sampling of mentors includes Doug Wilwerding, an angel investor and former CEO of Omnium Worldwide; Bill Fairfield, former CEO of Inacom and InfoGroup; Tony Raimondo, Chairman of Behlen Manufacturing, as well as other local business leaders. "I am excited to join this effort to support entrepreneurship in Nebraska, and believe that concentrated efforts like this can have a significant impact on our local economy long term" commented Doug Wilwerding.

Additional program details can be found on the organization's new website: www.mvforum.com.

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