

History

Established in 1994 as an outreach program through Montana State University College of Business, the Family Business Program offers education and information to the backbone of many Montana businesses, those owned and managed by families across the state. The annual seminar and awards luncheon, usually held in September, has reached out to hundreds of businesses and provided education and fact based information to thousands of participants.

In 2006, the Family Business Program 'On the Road' was introduced, offering similar educational programs as featured at the Family Business Day to family owned and small businesses in communities across the state. In January 2007, more than 50 people attended the premier of the MSU College of Business State Farm Insurance Family Business Program 'On the Road' in Helena. Planned in coordination with the Montana Chamber of Commerce Business Days at the Capitol, Dr. Mike Kroff, assistant professor of marketing, presented "Finding & Reaching Your Target Market." Considered a success, the 'On the Road' series is sure to become a useful and anticipated event state-wide.



Take Home Value...Past Topics

- The Business of Customer Service
- Market Research
- Using Branding Strategies
- Transforming Conflict into Creativity
- Avoiding the BIG Mistakes
- Managing Peak Performance: A Human Resources Perspective
- Navigating the Whitewater of Family Business
- Celebrating the Past and Preparing for the Future
- Creating Effective and Healthy Businesses
- The Principles & Practices of Business Leadership
- Transitions & Turning Points in the Family Business
- Senior & Junior Family Business Members
- Finding & Reaching Your Target Market
- Many more to come

Past Speakers

Dr. Richard Semenik, Dean of the College of Business (CoB) • Dr. Deidre Combs, National Speaker & Author • Doug Osborne, CLU, ChFC, CPA, PFS, MassMutual Financial group • Judy Martz, Former Lt. Governor & Governor of Montana, small business owner & entrepreneur • Bonnie Brown, President of Transition Dynamics, Inc. • Mark DeGroot, certified business appraiser with certified business intermediary • Elizabeth Harris, co-owner of Harris and Weiel Associates • Christopher Manos, The Center for Collaborative Solutions • Stan Mandel, Director of Family Business Initiative, University of South Dakota • C. Bruce Combs, J.D., C.P.A., Combs & Fricke PC • CoB faculty • and other great speakers

This is the only state-wide family business program, which allows businesses to share ideas and concerns that are common to most family-owned businesses. The program also provides recognition to pioneering families through the Family Business of the Year Awards Program.

Contact Us

You Can Make a Difference

In 2005, the future of the Family Business Program was further ensured with the establishment of the MSU College of Business State Farm Insurance Family Business Day Endowment. Annual earnings from this endowment, along with additional sponsorships, not only support the awards program, but also enable us to continue our goal to expand outreach activities and services for family-owned and small businesses throughout Montana.

In 2007, the Family Business Program 'On the Road' was introduced with the intention to offer specialized and informative business seminars in cities across the state of Montana. Following the success of the first program, more seminars have been produced with plans to continue this style of business education.

Imagine the impact this program will have on family-owned and small businesses across the state. We invite you to help provide critical outreach programs and secure perpetual funding by donating to this endowment. Your generous contribution will allow us to further our goal to recognize, support and honor family-owned and small businesses.

FOR INFORMATION ON ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES
PLEASE CONTACT:

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Sponsors

Funding is provided through the MSU College of Business State Farm Insurance Family Business Program endowment with additional annual funds from State Farm Insurance.

For many years, Combs & Fricke PC has supported Family Business Day and in 2006, the Montana Chamber of Commerce joined our team of supporters.

Stockman Bank underwrites the annual Family Business awards and provides support for the 'On the Road' program.

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
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Montana State University
College of Business
State Farm Insurance
Family Business Program



Connecting Montana Family Businesses
to the Global Market

[www.montana.edu/wwwdb/FamilyBusiness/
FamilyBusiness.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwdb/FamilyBusiness/FamilyBusiness.html)

