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The California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) supports economic growth and innovation statewide. CalOSBA's core mission is to provide resources to all California small businesses, disabled veteran business enterprises (SB/DVBEs), minority and women-owned businesses, and individuals who own and operate businesses in low-wealth and rural communities.

CalOSBA supports outreach and engagement efforts through advocacy, sharing resources, and building resilience through programs and our Technical Assistance Network that supports growth and business sustainability.

This month's newsletter highlights the ecosystem and CalOSBA's efforts to serve California businesses statewide.

From The Advocate: Valuing Women's Self-Determination



Tara Lynn Gray, Director of the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)

As I was preparing this column, the headline flashed in my notifications. It wasn't a surprise. But I still needed a moment to catch my breath.

Roe v. Wade is overturned. Tomorrow women will wake up with fewer rights than they had this morning. We are diminished, I thought.

Fortunately, however, I live in California, and my daughter lives in California, and I work for a Governor who has not only been vocal and unequivocal about the primacy of women's power over their own bodies and their own choices but who has been preparing for this moment. This includes very specific measures in this coming fiscal year to support women entrepreneurs, which I'm proud to tell you about as we still reel from the shock of the Supreme Court decision.

[Read the full article on LinkedIn here](#)

Regional Advisors Corner



Recently, CalOSBA's Regional Advisors visited several inspiring entrepreneurs in California's food and wine industries.

Central California Regional Advisor Linda Quiñones-Vaughan headed to Bishop (5/31) for the [Eastern Sierra Entrepreneur Regional Summit on Climate Innovation and Business Opportunities](#). Linda is pictured above (bottom-left) with SBDC's Lynn Gannon and Kelly Bearden along with Mono County's Miquela Beall.

CalOSBA Director Tara Lynn Gray explained how California is supporting innovation clusters across the state at the [Evening of Innovation Event](#), hosted by the South Coast Winery in Temecula (6/14). She attended the event with Acting Deputy Director and SoCal Regional Advisor Chris Earl. (Middle image above)

NorCal Regional Advisor Clair Whitmer visited Solano (6/1) to support 13 new food entrepreneurs who graduated from the [Food Inc. incubator program](#) sponsored by Solano SBDC and Travis Credit Union. The graduation was

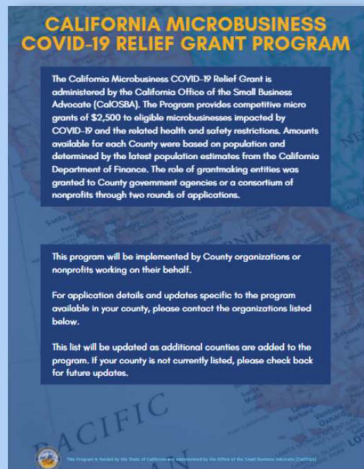
hosted in the Solano Community College kitchen.

Clair is seen above (bottom-right) with inspiring chefs and trainers, Shawn Walker-Smith and Mani Niall, who recently taught the Food Inc. incubator program in Oakland.



Lastly, Clair visited Rivino Winery in Ukiah (6/9) for the [Startup Mendo](#) graduation reception. After six months of hard work and dedication, 13 early-stage entrepreneurs (image above) graduated from the business accelerator program. Clair stated, “seeing the progress of each business and each entrepreneur was absolutely inspiring.”

Grant Programs



MICROBUSINESS COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

The Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program (MBCRG) is funded by the State of California and administered by the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. Eligibility criteria applies.

Check out the latest updates here for the [California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant County Contact Guide](#).



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Funding Opportunities

1. Realizing Accelerated Manufacturing and Production for Clean Energy Technologies

Deadline: July 28, 2022

Purpose: Financial assistance to help clean energy entrepreneurs advance emerging best-in-class innovative technology to the Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) stage.

Eligibility:

- Prime applicant must be a for-profit commercial entity or individual with the rights to commercialize the intellectual property (IP) being advanced under the proposed project
- Matching Funding Requirement:
- Match funding required of at least 50% of requested project funds.

More information and how to apply:

- [State Grants Portal](#)
- [Online Application](#)

2. Cost Share for Federal Clean Energy Funding Opportunities

Deadline: Ongoing

Purpose: Provide cost-share funding to applicants who apply for and receive one of the following:

- An award under an eligible federal Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and meet the requirements of this solicitation, or
- Funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to continue clean energy research from other funding notifications as long as the proposed project meets the requirements of this solicitation.

Eligibility:

- Business, Individual, Nonprofit, Public Agency, Tribal Government
- Open to all public and private entities except for local publicly owned electric utilities. In accordance with California Utilities Commission (CPUC) Decision 12-05-037, funds administered by the CA Energy Commission (CEC) may not be used for any purposes associated with local publicly owned electric utility activities.

Eligible Geographies:

- While it is not required to complete the project within a disadvantaged community, demonstration projects located and benefiting disadvantaged and/or low-income communities will be considered under the scoring criteria.

More information and how to apply:

- [State Grants Portal](#)
- [Online Application](#)

Resiliency and Outreach

July is Rockin' and Rollin' with Expanded Manufacturing in Southern California



With a major manufacturing hub in Corona, CA, [Fender doubles down on expanding Inland Empire operations](#) and explains more about this move with [Fender production rockin' in California](#). We are proud of [Fender's history](#) starting as a small business in Southern California and growing to become a global guitar legend.

Small Business Succession Planning – What is it and what to consider



Speaking of guitar legends, did you know that [Taylor Guitars](#) based in El Cajon, CA transitioned [last year](#) to an employee-owned cooperative model? To preserve Taylor's culture and values for the long-term future, the owners transitioned 100% of the company's ownership to Taylor employees through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

For small business owners looking to keep their business legacy going long after their retirement, an employee co-op model is a good alternative to consider before selling the business to a competitor, an investor, or closing its doors altogether.

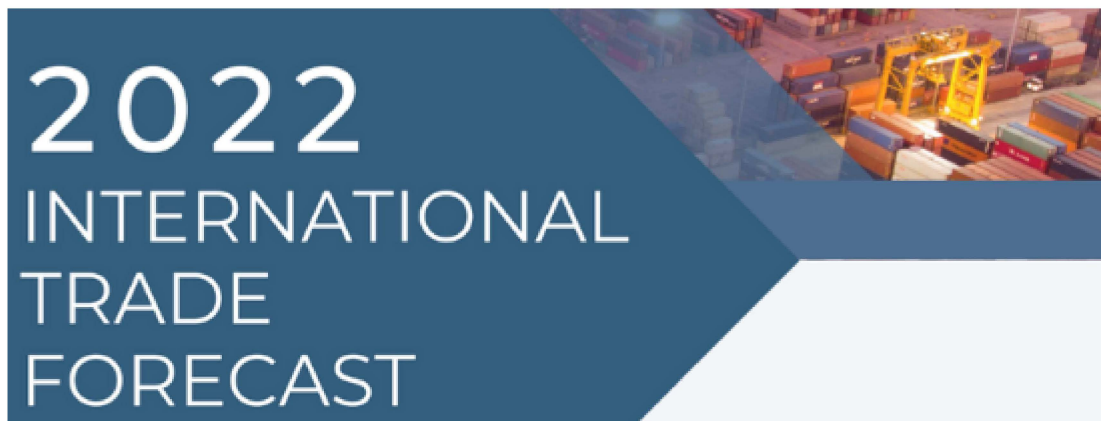
Resilience for small businesses is a top priority for CalOSBA and thinking about keeping the doors of your small business open after your retirement is something to plan for now, well before the transition. You may hear this called “business succession planning” and it’s never too early to start these conversations.

More importantly, adopting an employee co-op model may increase employee opportunities to build wealth long-term for their families and may prove over time to increase employee engagement, retention, and efficiency.

Find out more about the [employee ownership model](#) and contact your nearest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for more information [here](#).

If you have transitioned your business to an employee co-op or other “pass the torch” or “retirement” model, we want to hear from you on how the transition went! We may even consider featuring your small business in an upcoming story on small business succession planning. Small business owners who have transitioned ownership are invited to contact us [here](#).

A Deeper Dive into Orange County and Southern California Exports



Wondering about what is going on with the economy, and when it’s going to rebound? Check out the latest 2022 International Trade Forecast that provides historic averages, where we are today post-pandemic, and where global trade (an economic indicator) stands to move in the next few years [here](#).

Small Business Virtual Workshop Highlights



Learn more about how the [San Diego and Imperial Women's Business Center](#) are helping women start their childcare business from home, with their no-cost or low-cost counseling.



Check out the latest workshops, trainings, and webinars from CalOSBA's technical assistance partners by clicking [here](#) to view the statewide calendar.

For more small business resources and information, visit calosba.ca.gov

No-cost and low-cost training is available through Technical Assistance Centers across the state. Browse the training schedule on the CalOSBA website by [clicking here](#).

[Submit a request to CalOSBA](#)

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