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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 those individuals who own and operate businesses located 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: Every Month is Small Business Month in California



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

May is always extra, extra busy in the California Office of the Small Business Advocate.

First, May is the month that the Governor updates his budget proposal for the next fiscal year, and, as usual for Governor Newsom, small business proposals are front and center. If you follow my column, you've been reading about some of those new leading-edge proposals for entrepreneurship support.

My team and I are appearing at as many events as possible to celebrate our small business owners and applaud our small business technical assistance centers. This year, we get to mostly do that in person and masks are optional – which means, every event starts with a moment of gratitude. Between our research and talking to you, the small business owner, we try to use this month to evaluate the State of the California small business economy.

So far, I want to report, that we still can't precisely evaluate the ongoing damage of COVID-19 to our small business economy other than it is clear that the COVID-19 crisis is still not in the rear-view yet.

Here's what we know is true about the California small business economy this Small Business Month of 2022...and why these facts are compelling to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

[Click here to read the full article on LinkedIn](#)

Director Gray Honors National Holidays in May



Although we celebrate small business every day of the week, May is extra special for us at CalOSBA because it's the month to honor small business owners who come from diverse backgrounds.

During May, we're honoring:

- National Small Business Week (May 1st -7th)
- National Small Business Month
- California Small Business Month
- Military Appreciation Month
- National Inventor's Month
- World Trade Month
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Memorial Day – We're grateful for the military personnel who serve. And we can support veterans by shopping on Memorial Day Weekend with veteran-owned businesses

[Listen to Director Gray](#) honor these important national holidays in May.

Regional Advisors Corner

Accelerating Diversity in Innovation, Access to Capital, and More



SoCal Regional Advisor Chris Earl and NorCal Regional Advisor Clair Whitmer put in some miles this month!

Chris Earl and Director Gray had the pleasure of attending three Southern California iHub launches and meeting their teams:

- [The Brink SBDC in San Diego](#) (4/4)
- [Fathomwerk Lab](#) in Port Hueneme (4/12)
- And [Heal.LA iHub](#) in Los Angeles (5/2)

Meanwhile, in Northern California, Clair was honored to join the ribbon-cutting for the first brick-and-mortar office for the [Solano Black Chamber of Commerce](#) in Fairfield (4/22). She also attended the first [Santa Cruz Small Business Summit](#) (4/29), getting to meet two CalOSBA partners, [Santa Cruz SBDC](#) Director Brandon Napoli and [El Pájaro Community Development Corp.](#) Carmen

Herrera-Mansir.

Then she headed up north with new Small Business Local Engagement Specialist, Jermaine Carter-Gibson, for National Small Business Week. Jermaine and Clair met with businesses and lenders in Fortuna (located in Humboldt County) for the Capital Summit (5/2), then attended another Capital Summit in the city of Colusa (5/4); two very different business communities that share the same needs for access to capital.

Thank you to [North Coast SBDC](#) Director Leila Roberts, [Butte College SBDC](#) Director Sophie Konuwa, and all the NorCal SBDC regional team for welcoming Team NorCal!

Hernán Luis y Prado, President & CEO of VetPowered LLC of San Diego Recognized as the U.S. SBA's Small Business Person of the Year for California



From May 2nd through May 5th, the U.S. Small Business Administration hosted the 2022 National Small Business Week Virtual Summit, “Building a Better America Through Entrepreneurship.”

The focus of the summit was federal resources, training workshops, and networking to help small businesses increase agility, grow, and prepare for new opportunities.

The SBA formally recognized their 2022 Small Business Person of the Year for California - [Hernán Luis y Prado, President and CEO of VetPowered LLC](#) of San Diego, CA, during the National Small Business Week Virtual Summit’s Award Ceremony. Learn more about the company's work in the community [here](#).

Hot off the Press - Inland Empire State of Entrepreneurship Report Celebrating Entrepreneurship Across the Region



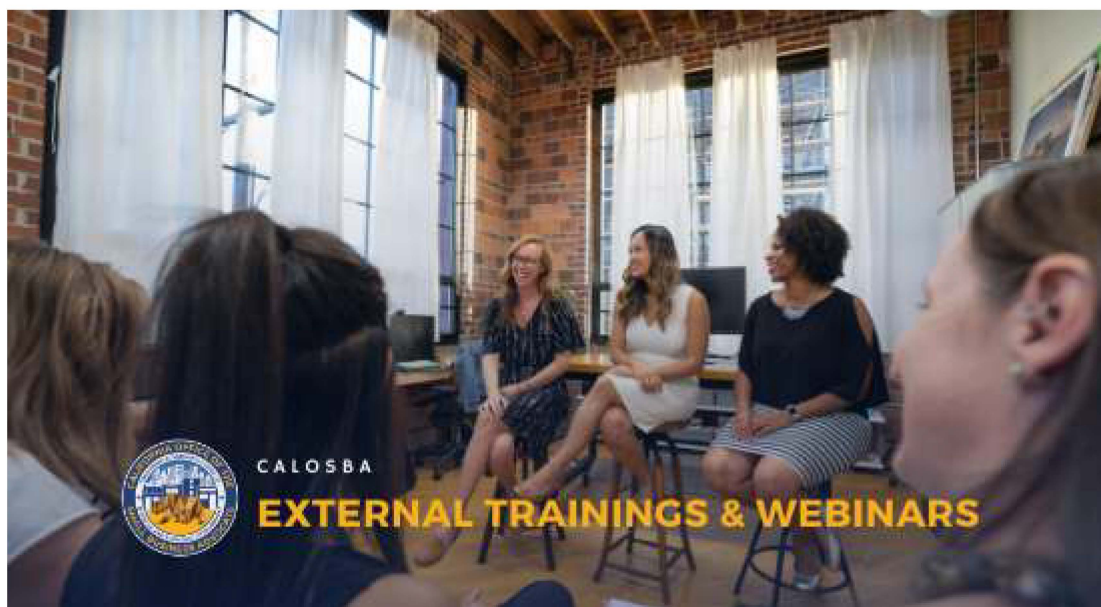
If you have not already checked it out, you do not want to miss the must-read Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship and School of Entrepreneurship at Cal State San Bernardino's "State of Entrepreneurship Report."

The report includes Inland Empire key statistics and trends in entrepreneurship, an inventory and assessment of the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem, and direct insight from over 1,000 entrepreneurs in the region.

The report aims to give a voice to the experiences of local entrepreneurs so their needs may be taken into consideration by local policy makers and to provide objective data to assist decision making on how resources are allocated to support entrepreneurship in the region.

[Download the report here.](#)

Kick-off California Small Business Month with Training to Boost Your Business Knowledge



The CalOSBA Technical Assistance Partner training network is working hard to provide on-demand training to support your business. Check out these San

Diego and Imperial Valley Women's Business Center offerings to safely boost your e-commerce business, digital marketing footprint, and more.

View upcoming events by [clicking here](#).

Grant Programs

CalOSBA Announces Grant Recipients to Establish 10 Regional Innovation Hubs in California

Accelerating Diversity and Inclusion in California's Science and Tech-Based Economies.



On April 4, 2022, CalOSBA announced grant awards to recipients of the [Inclusive Innovation Hub \(iHub2\) program](#). The iHub2 program is a one-time, \$2.5M investment that will help accelerate regionally focused strategies to spur innovation and diversification across industry sectors and geographies while attracting entrepreneurs from underserved business communities.

“The Inclusive Innovation Hub program is building on the strengths of the clustered regional model with a new focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe it will accelerate technology and science-based firms in key industry areas with strong outreach to diverse founders and underserved geographies. California leads the nation in business starts and working to support small businesses in these sectors continues to be critical to our full economic recovery,” said CalOSBA Director, Tara Lynn Gray.

To kick off the announcement of the program, Director Gray visited iHub2 designees across California, including The Brink and FATHOMWERX. Read about her visit to The Brink and FATHOMWERX facilities [here](#).

Advance Your Business Knowledge with an Online MBA

If you've ever thought about getting an MBA to advance your business knowledge, then checkout onlinemba.com. You can explore graduate schools throughout California, compare career salaries, and learn about how to apply to grad school. Visit [Onlinemba.com](https://onlinemba.com) for more information.

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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