

Paving the way for Regeneration: ISBE funds new research in response to recession

Four ground breaking new research projects have been given the green light courtesy of the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE) Research and Knowledge Exchange fund. Now in its second year, the 2010 round of funding responded to the challenges posed by contemporary economic conditions with a focus on the importance of entrepreneurship to regeneration and renewed economic growth. As such the RAKE Board looked to support projects which explore the potential for entrepreneurial activity within this climate.

The RAKE Fund, sponsored by Barclays, Economic and Social Research Council and National Council Graduate Entrepreneurship, was created with the aim of assisting the exploration of issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding entrepreneurial activities and small firm performance and to encourage and promote cutting-edge research which is relevant to both the development of policy and practice.

Launched in 2009 to a phenomenal response, the RAKE Fund 2010 call for bids attracted an even greater number of applicants. The exceptionally high quality of the applications meant competition was fierce and after a rigorous selection process the announcement of the successful applicants has been eagerly anticipated.

The four award holders who will receive financial support to carry out innovative new research are:

Dr Dilani Jayawarna of Manchester Metropolitan University with *Social Enterprise: Bootstrapping as a Strategic Response to Recession*

Professor David Smallbone of Small Business Research Centre, Kingston University with *On the Road to Recovery: a Longitudinal Analysis of Small Firm Survival and Growth Strategies in Post Recessionary Conditions*

Professor Colin Williams of Sheffield University with *Making the transition from informal to formal enterprise: Barriers and policy solutions*

Professor Nick Wilson of Leeds University with *An Analysis of UK Regional Development Agency Support on Company Value: Evidence from Yorkshire Forward*

Pioneering research to inform change and create genuine impact has never been more important than in these challenging times and ISBE is proud to support these exciting new projects. The results will be presented at a number of regional work shops throughout 2011 and at the ISBE 2011 conference which is to take place in Sheffield.

The 2009 award winners will be presenting their findings at the 32nd ISBE conference which will be held on the 3rd and 4th November 2010 at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London.

Notes to Editors:

For Further information on the RAKE Fund please contact:

Susan Marlow
Professor of Small Business and Entrepreneurship
De Montfort University

smhum@dmu.ac.uk

+44 (0) 116 2577236

For Further information on ISBE please contact:

Chris Dillon, Membership & Communications Officer

Institute for Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Chris@isbe.org.uk

0207 554 9941

About ISBE

The Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE) is the UK's largest and most established network for individuals and organisations concerned with small business and entrepreneurship research, enterprise support and advice, entrepreneurship education and the formulation, delivery and evaluation of entrepreneurship policy. With over 30 years experience, a 4,000 strong network and over 500 members ISBE provides a number of services including their internationally renowned annual conference, quarterly e-magazine Enterprising Matters, a monthly news and events bulletin, regional events and workshops, books and publications, the Research and Knowledge Exchange Fund (RAKE) and the dissemination of leading research in the field of Small Business and Entrepreneurship. For Further info on ISBE and its activities please visit www.isbe.org.uk

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK's largest funding agency for research, data resources and postgraduate training relating to social and economic issues. It supports independent, high quality research which impacts on business, the public sector and the third sector. The ESRC's planned total expenditure in 2008/09 is £203 million. At any one time the ESRC supports over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students in academic institutions and research policy institutes. More at www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

Barclays Bank plc is one of the main suppliers of banking and financial services to small and medium sized enterprises in the UK

The National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE): The National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) was formed in 2004 with the aim of raising the profile of entrepreneurship and the option of starting your own business as a career choice amongst students and graduates. By understanding the circumstances in which graduate entrepreneurship can flourish, NCGE's goal is to influence, and inspire, an increase in the number of students and graduates who give serious thought to self-employment or business start-up.