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Tech Thursdays annual autumn small business series comes to a close

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Blue Ocean Logic

Tech Thursdays annual autumn small business series comes to a close. L-R: Blue Ocean Logic's Brian Powers, Rhea Steele and Greater Southwest Development Corporation's Christine James.

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CHICAGO, IL – Operating a business from the cloud has its pros and cons, given the non-stop advancements made in technology. Fortunately, associated risks can always be mitigated with the right tools and resources, as was discussed during the final week of *Tech Thursdays Chicago* 2015 event.

Tech Thursdays Chicago – an annual small business enterprise (*SBE*) workshop and curriculum series that presents practical technology and marketing solutions to help aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners with identity, positioning, technology and finances –

has been in full swing during the month of October. Hosted at *Malcolm X College* – located at 1900 West Van Buren, Chicago, IL 60612 – the weekly series promotes practical and affordable technology solutions to advertise, accelerate and manage business growth.

Wrapping up 2015

The final week's workshop theme, *Business at Your Fingertips: Producing in the Cloud*, was an introductory to advanced walk-through of cloud-based productivity tools which can create seamless desktop and mobile information management platforms, dashboards and reports. Free software upgrades were raffled off by event partner *Microsoft*, as was computer repair certificates offered by event exhibitor **Nuevo Mundo Tech**.

Signage provider and long-standing Tech Thursdays exhibitor **Ed Signs**, was a featured speaker, sharing their experiences of working with brands big and small, as well as the processes they have in place to ensure customer satisfaction.

Other *SBEs* present as exhibitors showcasing their professional services were published author, business consultant and entrepreneurial mentor **Donna Smith Bellinger**; *Tech Thursdays* event caterer **Laine's Bake Shop**, as well as certified career and life coach, Tajuana Ross of **Get Over Yourself Career and Life Coaching**. Payment processing systems provider **Integrity Payment Systems** was in attendance as an event sponsor.

Small business enterprises (SBEs) and political partnerships

The final workshop was visited by Cook County Commissioner-**7th District and former Chicago mayoral contender, Jesús García**. Garcia spoke earnestly while showing his support of small business enterprises.

Garcia said that the current state of incarcerations within Illinois prisons are burgeoning unnecessarily, citing lack of employment and means to achieve small business ownership.

“People wind up there when they're not afforded economic opportunities. We're going to be calling on you to help make sure that becomes a reality.”

Garcia added with all the achievements Illinois has accomplished in manufacturing, technology and transportation that these are prime sectors for the state to target for job growth.

“We're looking forward to seeing how we can play a bigger role.”

Cook County Commissioner-**10th District, Bridget Gainer** also paid a visit; answering questions about the city's efforts in making small business ownership easier by shortening the certification period, as well as providing options online. Gainer spoke with attendees after the workshop to address other concerns.

Gear up for Tech Thursdays evening workshops and beyond

Visit www.techthursdayschicago.com for the Fall 2015 **evening small business workshop offerings**, or visit www.greatersouthwest.org and www.blueoceanlogicgroup.com to register for *Greater Southwest Development Corporation's* and *Blue Ocean Logic's* e-mail distribution, respectively, for 2016 *Tech Thursdays* exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- Small businesses boost earning (and learning) power through weekly workshops
- Chicago Small Business Center cements city as perfect suitor for small business
- IL Hispanic Chamber of Commerce program jumpstarts growth for small businesses
- Vistage Executive Summit 2015: Don't look to the future ... create it
- Ever-growing coworking and conference space provider leads in hospitality, tech



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