

# Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs

Helping small businesses GROW!

in Bluffton and Allen, Hardin, Hancock and Putnam counties

- **Ropp Triplett Business Plan Competition**

- Offers \$6,000 in prize money for business start-up expenses. Since 2011, 42 contestants involved. Twenty-one prize winners with \$36,000 prize money awarded.

- 8 evening classes in January-February-March led by Kathy Keller, Small Business Administration, Rhodes State College, Lima

- **Two divisions:**

- Emerging business
- Established business with 45817 zip code
- Cash prizes range from \$500 to \$4,000 (\$125 registration entry fee; \$75 for college students)

- **Think Tank** - With business professionals. Two-hour, confidential sessions focus on your specific business issue: "What's your question or problem?" We'll answer it. BCE provides you with session notes. (\$200)

- **University Think Tank** - With Bluffton University students. One-hour session where you bounce ideas off university students in a very informal setting. BCE provides you with session notes. (\$100)

- **Business expo** - Our 2015 spring expo included 25 businesses. Your opportunity to share your products and services with the public and other businesses. Watch for details.

- **BCE-Chamber workshops** - Free programs that follow chamber breakfasts. Previous workshop topics: Quickbooks, Social Security, social media, intellectual property, website basics, improving your online visibility.

- **HOW workshops** - Hands-on Workshops. Limited to 4 persons for personal attention. Previous topics covered: How to improve your online appearance, and Basics of website design. 90 minute sessions. (\$20)

- **We provide several other services** to assist in your business startup and growth. These services and fees will be shared with you during your free initial consultation.

**These include:**

- **Referrals** to below-market office space in Bluffton.

- **Access to university interns** for social media consultations and marketing research.

- **Connections** with over 195 Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce members.  
[www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com)

**Find us at:**

[www.blufftonentrepreneurs.com](http://www.blufftonentrepreneurs.com)

**On Facebook:**

**Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs**

## ◆ BCE

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Fred Steiner - Director

\* Affiliated with Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce

## ◆ Our Mission...

to provide resources – financial, intellectual, and technological – in partnership with local educators and business leaders that will facilitate and nurture growth of new and developing enterprises.