



Media Release

For Release: Immediate
Contact: Christina Hitchcock, Business Development Administrator
MetroAction, Inc.
(570) 342-7711
Email: chitchcock@metroaction.org

MetroAction Recognizes National Effort to Promote Entrepreneurship

SCRANTON – In an effort to raise the nation's awareness about the impact of small businesses, Congress has established a National Entrepreneurship Week from February 23 – March 1. In response to the U S House of Representatives Resolution # 699, passed in June, 2006, local, state, and national events will take place to honor America's entrepreneurs and to encourage more people to follow in their footsteps.

MetroAction, a local non-profit business development organization serving eight counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, is doing its part to help boost entrepreneurship in northeastern Pennsylvania. MetroAction offers business training and loan products to help start-up and expanding entrepreneurs improve their chances of success.

"Since our inception, MetroAction has made its number one goal to be the continued success of small, locally owned businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania," states, Kristine Augustine, Vice President of Business and Community Development. She elaborates, "National Entrepreneur Week is a great way to show the community that we are available to help them succeed. Through a variety of programs and services, including our flexible financing programs, one-on-one counseling and comprehensive training programs, we are able to assist small business owners in keeping their doors open and continuing the entrepreneurial spirit that our region is known for."

The success of small businesses is an ongoing process of counseling, mentoring and training. MetroAction provides a comprehensive menu of business development assistance, including loan programs. MetroAction's financing programs provide loans up to \$50,000 to entrepreneurs who have not been able to obtain funding at today's competitive market rates from traditional loan institutions. MetroAction's loans offer a fixed interest rate, flexible terms and can be combined with financing from other funding sources.

MetroAction's training programs and counseling services provide start-up and existing entrepreneurs and business professionals with a range of seminar and workshop topics focusing on the needs of business owners and current trends. A good example of these programs is the

Small Business Institute, a collaborative effort with the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center. This eight-week comprehensive training program provides business owners and managers with a solid understanding of what's involved with operating a successful business. A complete listing of current training programs can be found at www.MetroAction.org.

MetroAction serves an eight county footprint in northeastern Pennsylvania, including Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties. To date, MetroAction has provided more than \$2.56 million in financing to area businesses and has trained and counseled thousands of entrepreneurs and business professionals.

"MetroAction is dedicated to helping the small business owners in our region. We provide the tools and resources that can keep a business' doors open and increase their chance of long-term success. I am pleased that MetroAction is continuing to grow and increase their services right along with the development and growth of our area," Ms. Augustine, states. She concludes, "The small business owners in NEPA are not giving up on the region, they are working hard against tough competition, but they are doing it, and MetroAction's support can be invaluable in these difficult economic times. I am proud that we are offering such valuable services to the people of northeastern Pennsylvania."

###