



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Cynthia Isaac Macke, Director of Sales and Marketing

Clermont Chamber of Commerce

4355 Ferguson Drive, Suite 150

Cincinnati, Ohio 45245

Phone: 513.576.5006

Fax: 513.576.5001

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

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**Melvin recognized for Small Business Service Excellence and Innovation**

John Melvin, Director of the SBDC at the Clermont, was honored at the Ohio Small Business Week "Night of Excellence in Small Business" event in Columbus on May 19. Part of National Small Business Week, which recognizes the contributions of small businesses to the economic wellbeing of America, Ohio Small Business Week showcases and recognizes some of the most successful and inspiring businesses, supporters and lenders.

Through the SBDC network, Melvin has provided outstanding technical and management assistance to small and emerging Ohio companies such as Mt. Carmel Brewing Company and i do boutique. John was instrumental in assisting the owner of i-do boutique Brigid Horne-Nestor complete her business plan and projections. In early 2009, Horne-Nestor decided to add a referral aspect to her wedding planning business. Through the US Bank and partnership with the SBDC, Horne-Nestor received a line of credit of \$10,000, which allowed her to open a boutique in O'Bryonville. Another success story is that of Mike and Kathleen Dewey, founders of Mt. Carmel Brewing Company. Since meeting with Melvin, Mt. Carmel Brewing Company has grown from a two-person operation with \$125,000 in annual revenues (2006) to a five-person business with \$900,000 in projected sales annually. The Deweys have expanded capacity from seven barrels to 30 barrels, added a bottling line, and acquired Kroger as a major retail distributor.

Clermont Chamber Board Chairman, Andy McCreanor said of Melvin, "It's great to see these types of results and hear about the impact SBDC's have had on our state economy. I especially want to recognize John's efforts for the truly outstanding work he provides to clients. Well done, John and thank you!" Chris Smith, Interim Director of Clermont 20/20 commented, "Entrepreneurialism and innovation are the keys to economic growth and job creation for our region. John continues to do an exemplary job for our region and provides one of the many valuable services offered by the Clermont Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations John on a well deserved recognition!"

The Clermont Chamber is celebrating 25 years of service to Ohio's small business community through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), a joint partnership of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Department of Development and the Small Business Administration. Small Business Champions like John Melvin have made that possible.

"Great Job to not only John, but to his predecessors as well. We have been blessed with some great people in this job for the 25 years to include Denny Begue, Matt Van Sant, Chris Smith and now John. Each of these men has taken it to a new level under their watch," added Kraig Gordon, Chamber Board Member and President of Gordon Construction.

John Melvin has over 25 years of small business experience. He is a Certified Business Advisor who provides free one-on-one business consulting to clients. His expertise lead clients through the rigors of business plan preparation, financial analysis, and project coordination to name a few. John has built strong relationships with large banks, community banks and credit unions. These relationships serve as the basis for many loan approvals for his clients.

Other Clermont Chamber members recognized at "A Night of Excellence in Small Business" include RiverHills Bank and Horizon Certified Development Corporation, Lender Award Recipients, and Express Personnel, an American Recovery Act Showcase company.

*Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is an association of approximately 1000 businesses working together to make the Clermont County area the best place to locate, operate and grow your business. The Chamber's key initiatives are advocacy, economic growth and member/investor benefits. Find us at [www.clermontchamber.com](http://www.clermontchamber.com). The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is Andrew McCreanor of Executive Service Corp..*