



For Immediate Release
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CIC 16-WEEK ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOP CELEBRATES SPRING GRADUATES
Local Non-profit Hosts 24th Graduation for Class of 25 Entrepreneurs

Charlottesville, VA – Community Investment Collaborative (CIC) continues to educate and empower the local small business community with another 25 entrepreneurs set to graduate from its signature program, a 16-week Entrepreneur Workshop, on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at The Center at Belvedere, from 6PM – 8PM.

The 16-week Entrepreneur Workshop offers an extensive curriculum, practical resources, guided discussions, a collaborative work environment, and opportunities for hands-on application. Entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, with varying levels of skills and experience, and business concepts spanning multiple industries work extensively to develop their concepts to establish and grow their businesses. “It was a great 360-experience, from the professional lecture speakers, to the students and staff; it is great networking. Using what I have learned during the workshop has helped me understand how to run a business better,” says Johnetta Murray, Owner, Justified by Netta, a body contouring and nail services company, and Class 24 Graduate. “The workshop offered help with a variety of questions and addressed many concerns that I had.”

CIC hosts graduation celebrations after the completion of each Spring and Fall semester of its 16-week Entrepreneur Workshop. Graduates have the option to be paired with mentors, participate in Office Hours, and join Small Business Circles for ongoing support and insight from fellow entrepreneurs. They are also eligible to explore other aspects of CIC, including its Financial Management Program (FMP) and its microloan program, which offers financing options of up to \$50,000 to help them formally launch or expand their businesses.

“I was most excited about the resources that CIC would provide me, and they haven't disappointed at all! This is such a valuable asset to the Charlottesville small business community,” Katie Sale, Owner, 139 Goodman, a move management, home decluttering, and organization service, and Class 24 Graduate, shares. “I really appreciated the community involvement; all of the speakers were exceptional, and very giving in their time and accessibility. Despite being exposed to entrepreneurship and small business prior to participating, I still had a lot to learn, and CIC did a great job of filling in my knowledge gaps. I cannot recommend the CIC Entrepreneurship Workshop enough for anyone considering starting their own small business!”

Graduating entrepreneurs, program volunteers, and CIC staff will be available for interviews on the evening of graduation.

For more information on CIC, its programming and available resources, please visit <https://cicville.org>.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COLLABORATIVE (CIC)

Community Investment Collaborative (CIC) is a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) with a mission to strengthen the community and contribute to economic development by fueling the success of under-resourced entrepreneurs through education, mentoring, financing, and networking. CIC celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2022, has over 500 graduates from its 16-week Entrepreneur Workshop and has issued more than \$3 million to over 175 entrepreneurs through its microloan program. Learn more about CIC at <https://cicville.org>.