



Chicagoland Chamber and AllWorld Network launch a global Web 2.0 pilot to accelerate business growth

CHICAGO – Chicago’s small and medium sized companies are about to take a leap into the global marketplace. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and AllWorld Network Inc. today announced a strategic partnership to utilize patent-pending technology to match and prepare the Chamber’s small and medium sized companies to take advantage of global growth opportunities. Chicago has been chosen to be the first American city to take advantage of the new technology -- AllWorld Network’s GrowthCluster™ soon to launch at www.GrowthCluster.com. AllWorld plans to expand to ten other US and international markets by the end of 2008.

“Globalization demands that companies are quick to seize opportunities to enable faster and more strategic growth in market share,” said Chicagoland Chamber President and CEO Jerry Roper. “In the same way that Facebook®, MySpace® or LinkedIn® have transformed the world we operate in, GrowthCluster™ has similar potential. If this pilot goes as planned, we can accelerate the growth of businesses in our region by providing business leads with local companies, as well as other businesses across the nation and around the world.”

Through the GrowthCluster™ platform, Chicagoland Chamber members will create business Growth Profiles to find joint venture partners with complementary expertise or market access and to develop strategies for entering new markets. As companies create Growth Profiles, GrowthCluster™ will use proprietary technology to make matches between companies and suggests growth strategies. The first round of matching will be piloted on September 26th 2008 for an innovation conference hosted by InnovateNow of the Chicagoland Chamber’s InnovateNow initiative and *WIRED* magazine. Registration is at growthcluster.com/go/innovation-conversation.

GrowthCluster™ will also host sponsored moderated boards to help companies pursue growth opportunities. Chicagoland Chamber members will have 24/7 access to experts and resources. These sponsored online boards will enable members to anticipate and respond to changing market conditions.

“Increasingly, the name of the growth game is strategic agility,” added AllWorld Network co-founder Anne Habiby. “Entrepreneurial companies are blowing out their walls and going global by teaming up with others. We created GrowthCluster™ to equip small and

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medium sized companies get into the global game. We are delighted to be launching this new technology with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.”

Joining the Chicagoland Chamber and AllWorld Network as an Academic Partner is the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. Stuart School Dean Harvey Kahalas added that “our Center for Strategic Competitiveness will work with the Chamber and AllWorld Network to help deploy this cutting-edge tool in support of a world-wide network of high performing companies and start-ups. The Center will also conduct training and research with regards to how such networking technologies help entrepreneurial companies innovate and grow globally.”

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, since its founding in 1904 as the first regional chamber of commerce in the United States, its mission is to make our region the most business-friendly region in America and enhance its members’ success through aggressive programs of advocacy, member benefits and services, and actionable information. The Chamber’s 2,600 members employ more than 1.2 million individuals in the region. Learn more by visiting www.chicagolandchamber.org.

AllWorld Network, Inc. creates pioneering technologies to accelerate growth and innovation for small and medium sized companies. AllWorld Network was founded in 2008 by three information entrepreneurs and the company has received its first round of angel financing. Anne Habiby is a nationally recognized economist and co-founder of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City with Harvard Business School Professor Michael Porter. The two other AllWorld co-founders bring a depth of expertise from IBM and Fujitsu, and are leading a team of software scientists at Stanford University.

The Illinois Institute of Technology was established in 1890 as a private, Ph.D.-granting university. IIT’s Stuart School was established in 1969 with a mission to teach business programs that incorporate a real world perspective, analytical/quantitative skills, the relationship between business and technology and the multi-disciplinary components of strategic competitiveness to globally diverse students. The Stuart School also conducts theoretical and applied research in business and business-related disciplines.

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