

Lane MicroBusiness

Community Profile:

Population 323,000

Location Eugene, Lane County

Position Description:

Sponsor Lane MicroBusiness

Supervisor Leslie Grove

Assignment

The Lane MicroBusiness position focuses on rural outreach to determine the needs for Micro Enterprise services in rural areas. The position will include an overall program evaluation.

The RARE Participant will create a needs assessment of rural entrepreneurs and integrate their findings with the Business Development Center's preliminary research done thus far on rural needs. The participant will promote the services of the Lane MicroBusiness program throughout rural Lane County. This will be done through visits to numerous rural communities in Lane County, where the participant will hold informational meetings to educate the residents on the opportunities that Lane MicroBusiness can provide for them. Once the participant and the community members have met, the goal is for the RARE Participant to establish office hours in many of the rural communities. This will enable rural residents of Lane County to easily utilize the participant as a resource for their small businesses.

Required Skills

The ideal RARE Participant would have a background or understanding of poverty issues, knowledge of economic development techniques, understanding of program evaluation methodologies, excellent writing skills, computer literacy and an ability to communicate with people from diverse economic and social backgrounds.

RARE Member: *Tricia Siaso - 2001-2002, Year 8 Participant*

In 1997, Patricia Siaso completed her undergraduate work in Biological Sciences – Ecology and Environmental Science at Florida State University. She spent two and a half years serving in the Peace Corps in Samoa. While in the Peace Corps, Patricia served as a Trainer and the Head of the Science Department/ Secondary Science Teacher at Wesley College (high school) in Faleula, Samoa. In Samoa, she was also involved in the Girl Scouts.