



For Immediate Release

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TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. and Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. are urging top executives of small businesses to enroll for the **e200 Emerging Leaders** training sessions sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The free sessions will be held at the SBA office at 555 Beale Street starting April 19th and will continue for nine (9) months.

“This is an excellent opportunity for the leaders of small businesses. Our partnership with the SBA can lead to more effective ways for people to manage and grow small businesses in Shelby County,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

“I’ve seen first-hand what small businesses do for this community and what the e200 Emerging Leaders program does for small businesses,” said Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. **“As the Small Business Administration marks the start of a new class, I encourage Memphis entrepreneurs to apply.”**

Mayors Luttrell and Wharton will talk more about the **e200 Emerging Leaders** initiative on Thursday, March 22, 2012. At 1:30 p.m., the mayors will visit AVPOL International LC at 1320 Peabody Avenue. The warehousing operations and petroleum company has 42 full-time employees and one part-time employee. Ms. Sandra Walls, President of the company, is a 2008 graduate of the **e200 Emerging Leaders** program.

“The SBA training was very helpful. I gained a better understanding of our financial operations, which led to the expansion of our business,” said Ms. Walls.

To participate, businesses must

- Have been in operation for at least three (3) years
- Annual revenues between \$400,000 and \$10 Million per year
- Have a least one employee besides the CEO
- Be represented at the training sessions by the key decision maker (CEO, President, Owner)

The first 20 businesses that apply and qualify will be chosen for the classes. For more information, contact the SBA at Saundra.jackson@sba.gov or call (901) 526-9300.

(End of Release)