

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women's Business Center

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Our Mission

The Center for Women's Entrepreneurship at Chatham University (CWE) creates economic opportunities through entrepreneurial counseling, education, and training. In its 20 years of operation, the Center has helped thousands of entrepreneurs and small businesses gain a foothold in business, while also serving to grow our regional economy.



CWE Team



CWE Member Coffee Hour

Since 2005, the Center has provided high quality education and training to entrepreneurs at all stages of business. With the support of the SBA Women's Business Center Award in 2016, CWE expanded its programming to offer free one-on-one business counseling and technical assistance. CWE offers a suite of programs for early stage to established stage businesses including signature programs like Concept to Launch, Business of Child Care, Business Planning and Capital Readiness, Membership Program and Voices of Business Speaker Series. CWE's programs and services are structured to meet the needs of the regional communities and are offered at no or minimal cost to the participants. CWE serves entrepreneurs within the 11 counties surrounding Pittsburgh, PA.

CWE events and services are available to all.



Since receiving the SBA Women's Business Center award in 2016 the Center has offered 595 training programs from April 2016 through September 2024, to train entrepreneurs to start, manage and expand their businesses. Through these programs, CWE has served over 14,631 entrepreneurs with 1,600 training hours. CWE was awarded the SBA Women Business Center of the Year Award in 2018.

Yearly Impact Numbers October 2023 - September 2024

 \$1.4M SBA Loans	 615 Small Business Owners Counseled	 1415 Small Business Owners Trained	 58 Number of Capital Infusions
 \$2.1M Total Loans	 800 Total Counseling Hours	 275 Total Training Hours	 944 Jobs Supported



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Free Business Counseling and Technical Assistance For-Profit Businesses

The Center offers free business counseling and technical assistance to aspiring and existing business owners. Counseling sessions are available by appointment and can be conducted face-to-face, online, or by phone. Our expert advisors provide support in essential business areas such as management, digital marketing, accounting, exporting, legal issues, HR, branding, marketing, manufacturing, and business certifications, tailored to help businesses thrive in today's competitive landscape.



U.S. Small Business Administration

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration



Sheree Thomas, President, SB Thomas
SBA Pennsylvania Small Business Person 2025



Kristee Cammack, Founder, A Giving Heart
Child Care & Adult Learning Center Show & Tell

Success Stories



Patricia Stanko
Peace Love and Learning

Patricia Stanko, Chatham Alumna, is the owner of the Peace Love and Learning, a child care program based in constructivist learning philosophies. Guided by CWE, Patricia has successfully opened a child care center and a home based child care throughout her career. Patricia also serves as the instructor for CWE's Business of Child Care Training Program.



Brittani & Dustin Boutilier
'77 Club

Owners Brittani & Dustin Boutilier opened their wood-fired traveling pizza oven in October 2023. After working with CWE counselors on a business plan and financial projections, '77 Club received financing to purchase a new wood-powered oven that allowed them to scale their business to more pop-ups around Pittsburgh. The business has participated in over 200 events per year and expanded to offer catering opportunities.



Jayashree Iyengar
Popping Mustard Seeds

Jayashree Iyengar, founder, and owner of Popping Mustard Seeds, specializes in teaching Indian cooking. Jay's classes are hands-on with a rich cultural experience. Jay is a Chatham Alumna and CWE member who has grown her business with the support of CWE's counseling and training programs.

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