



Entrepreneur Guide Certification

Wikipedia states “A **guide** is a person who leads people through unknown or unmapped country, or conducts travelers and tourists through a place of interest.” Much in the same way that mountain guides are employed in mountaineering; they are expected not merely to show the way but stand in the position of professional climbers with an expert knowledge of rock and snow craft, which they impart to the amateur, at the same time assuring the safety of the climbing party.

Entrepreneur Guides actively assist entrepreneurs through venture development and growth. Prospective Entrepreneur Guides must illustrate that they possess selected characteristics, training, and experience prior to certification by TCRE. They must also demonstrate satisfactorily that they can develop and implement strategies that will assist entrepreneurs in their community to accomplish economic development.

Those seeking certification should submit documentation for review to TCRE that shows the following:

1. Successful completion of Instructor Training in “Developing Entrepreneurs and Their Communities” which, in part, familiarizes participants with the Rural Entrepreneurship Support Network community college curriculum;
2. Successful completion of documented cases of providing technical assistance to at least three entrepreneurs involved with starting or growing ventures. A format will be provided to report the critical information to demonstrate successful guiding experience with each of your entrepreneurs.
3. Completion of Entrepreneur Guide Assessments (EGA) by each of the entrepreneurs to whom you provide technical assistance in 2 above and by three additional references involved in economic development in your community. You are also expected to complete an EGA as a self-assessment. All assessments will be signed by each preparer.
4. Successful completion of two educational programs presenting elements of the RESN curriculum to target groups. Evaluations completed by participants will serve to demonstrate satisfactory completion of this requirement.
5. Overview of an operations plan illustrating your continued support for entrepreneurs.

The final step in the certification process will be a briefing with a TCRE representative to discuss all materials and expectations of Entrepreneur Guides. An important component of the certification program is an agreement on continued support for the objectives of both parties and the methods for accomplishing those objectives.

Any questions about the Entrepreneur Guide Certification program or TCRE should be directed to Greg Clary, Chairman.  g-clary@tamu.edu