



Everything New Orleans

Coaching course for social entrepreneurs taking applications for its 2013-14 class

propeller incubator opening 2.jpg

Propeller founder Andrea Chen, right, and Will Bradshaw, left, stand inside a break room area at Propeller's incubator, talking with Kevin Morgan-Rothschild, center, who is a project manager with Aquaponic Modular Production Systems, one of numerous small start-up companies renting space at the newly renovated Washington Avenue building in New Orleans in January. *(Chris Granger, The Times-Picayune and NOLA.com)*

Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By **Mark Waller, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune**

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The **Propeller incubator** for ventures addressing social causes in New Orleans has finished its entrepreneur-coaching program for 2012-13 and is taking applications for its next class.

The Broadmoor-based group is looking for 12 to 15 nascent social or environmental efforts to enroll in a 10-month program providing business mentorship, free office space, pro bono professional services and other support. The dozen Propeller Accelerator fellows from the last year generated more than \$3 million in revenue through their service offerings and further donations and created 32 full-time and part-time jobs.

The deadline to apply is July 26. **Applications are available on Propeller's Internet site.**

The most recent class of social entrepreneurs guided by the group, which goes by the full name Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation and **opened a building for its incubator in January**, included healthy food, public health, social justice and environmental projects. Propeller works with profit-seeking **businesses** and non-profit organizations.

Highlights from the 2012-13 class include the Healthy School Food Collaborative, which coordinated more than 1 million healthy meals served to 20 percent of students in New Orleans public schools, the **Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana**, which helped more than 450 people with non-violent criminal records seek expungements to clear the way for finding jobs, **Smiles2Geaux**, which provided dental care to children and senior citizens from a mobile clinic, **VEGGI Farmers Cooperative**, which helped fishers in New Orleans East impacted by the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico learn to be aquaponics farmers and **Birthmark Doula Collective**, which provided 185 pregnant women with doula services.

