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KTEC program to feature venture capital experts

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Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp.'s entrepreneur grooming program will make a stop in Wichita in early September, and bring with it some nationally known people in venture capital.

Joni Cobb, president of KTEC Pipeline, said Thursday that four of the people coming to lead educational sessions in Wichita for the Pipeline students, or innovators, are either policy experts or venture capitalists.

"Within that very national-oriented group, (Pipeline innovators) are going to be able to glean from the experts cutting-edge information on how entrepreneurs are surviving and growing in the current economy," Cobb said. "They're going to have the best of the best."

The best in this instance are Marianne Hudson, Tom Parkinson, Laura Kilcrease and Richard A. Miller.

Hudson, from Lenexa, is executive director of the Angel Capital Association and the Angel Capital Education Foundation.

Parkinson is a principal of Hopewell Ventures, a venture capital firm in Chicago.

Kilcrease is founder and managing director of Triton Ventures, an Austin-based venture capital fund.

And Miller, from New Jersey, is a consultant to the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds and Innovation America.

The experts will talk about finances and financing, Cobb said, and will augment sessions led by other local and state experts in capital and entrepreneurship.

Cobb said the experts will help innovators learn of "trend-setting ways to finance their businesses in this economy."

The Wichita education module is the third of four education sessions Pipeline innovators attend during the yearlong program. Each session lasts three days.

The 2009 Pipeline class comprises eight Kansas entrepreneurs and includes Gary Mason, chief executive of Wichita-based iSi Environmental Services.

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