

## **Entrepreneurial Festival coming to Providence September 14**

**Providence, RI** The Entrepreneurship Forum of New England (EFNE) is hosting the third annual Festival, an evening event featuring a wide range of entrepreneurs, discussion, networking, and hands-on skill-building from 5pm to 9pm, Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Hi-Hat, Davol Square, downtown Providence. Attendees will have the opportunity to build networks and markets, learn from entrepreneurial colleagues, and engage in innovative business models.

The theme for this year's Festival is the Future of Entrepreneurship and is designed to help entrepreneurs of all disciplines learn and grow with other entrepreneurs. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet, listen, and talk to EFNE's Entrepreneurs-in-Residence – five talented, driven individuals involved in a wide variety of businesses. What do these seasoned entrepreneurs have to say about the future?

According to Jeff Deckman, of Synet, "We must then actively enter our communities to help others to see and experience for themselves that truth which we have already learned. At the end of the day we will have significantly fewer 'problems' to face."

Ilma Paixao of Handeira Linens and Lace questions entrepreneurs to consider "Does an enterprise help solve multiple problems? Can today's entrepreneur use new tools, in communications and information technology, as well as adopting other practices to substantially and truly solve environmental problems, by both reducing wasteful use of resources and at the same time empowering others to do the same?"

Gina DiSpirito, founder and creative director of GLAD WORKS, encourages entrepreneurs to "make a point of not only the importance of good

communication, but also the effectiveness of it with regard to problem solving, I feel that it would inevitably be felt and appreciated on a more wide-spread basis. The problems and issues will always be there, but it's how you manage your relationships through communication that will ultimately make a difference.”

John Abrams, of South Mountain Company, tells entrepreneurs to think about “distribution of wealth and power more equitably by democratizing the workplace, and commitment by commerce to local economies and community preservation.”

John Reid of Amherst, Mass., founder of Bio-Shelters Inc., operating a self-contained bio-system producing fish and herbs for 64 New England food markets; Anthony Gemma of Gem Plumbing; and Barnaby Evans of Waterfire Providence will also be present to participate in the evening's events,

Admission for EFNE members and students is \$30, non-member, \$60. The fee includes a light dinner and refreshments. Attendees who pre-register will also be eligible to win a free EFNE Extreme Makeover featuring a half-day intensive workshop customized to an entrepreneur's needs. The winner picks half a dozen business areas in which he or she needs help and an EFNE “dream team” of selected entrepreneurial members provides a structured, practical learning experience for the winner. A printed digest of the session will also be provided. The winner will be selected at the Festival. For online registration and more information, go to [www.efne.org](http://www.efne.org) or call 401-351-7110. Produced by New Commons, Inc. 56 Pine Street, Providence, RI.