

Kathy Wheeler, Executive Director of MEC-Community Business Partnership Retires After 20 Years of Service



Community Business Partnership Staff celebrated Kathy Wheeler's 20 years of service with a surprise retirement luncheon on January 25th at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant in Occoquan, VA.

Community Business Partnership (CBP) and George Mason Enterprise Center Staff, CBP Board of Directors,

former and current clients, and community dignitaries honored Kathy for her service, leadership, promotion of economic development and dedication to provide small business support services to Fairfax County and beyond.



CBP was created 1995, as a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization working in collaboration with a number of local, regional and national organizations to promote small business growth in our communities. CPB is a sponsored program of the Mason Enterprise Center at George Mason University. Kathy joined CBP in January 1998 and has been responsible for creating, leading and managing business, community and economic development assistance programs to promote a healthy small business economy.

Over the last 20 years, Kathy has been instrumental in growing CBP from primarily a Women's Business Center Office to 5 distinct programs: The Northern Virginia Women's Business Center, the South Fairfax Small Business Development Center, the Business Finance Center, the Business Incubation Center and the Veterans Business Outreach Center. Her vision helped expand small business services and CBP's impact for both clients and strategic partners by providing economic growth and stability for the region. She also orchestrated 2 expansion moves of CBP facilities. Before turning over the reigns to the new Executive Director Kathy will assist with a smooth transition of CBP's operations.

After retiring, Kathy's plans include traveling, improving her golf game, assisting with the care of her aging mother and of course, volunteering in her local community. She has an exciting 10-day trip planned to Ireland where she will also enjoy dinner, and a night in a castle compliments of CBP Staff. Thank you for your service and dedication!