

## **JAX CHAMBER PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS COMMUNITY MEMBERS SUPPORT TWO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN MENTORING PROGRAM**

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (April 15, 2015) – More than a dozen members of the Jacksonville business community have embarked on a year-long mentoring program that supports two area women business owners and helps them develop a strategic plan for business growth.

*ATHENAPowerLink*<sup>®</sup> is a mentoring program offered by the Jacksonville Women's Business Center (JWBC), an economic and community development initiative of the JAX Chamber Foundation, housed at the JAX Chamber. The Chamber Foundation, JWBC and *ATHENAPowerLink*<sup>®</sup> Jacksonville Governing Body selected the community panelists and the 2015 women entrepreneurs.

The 2015 *ATHENAPowerLink*<sup>®</sup> program women business owners are:

- Lauren Bunso Bittencourt, Smart Body Physical Therapy, Inc.
- Michelle Calcote King, Reputation Ink

“Our program provides an exceptional opportunity for women business owners to learn from seasoned professionals how to grow and develop their companies for long-term success,” said Sandy Bartow, JAX Chamber Foundation president. “This program not only supports our community entrepreneurs, but also helps strengthen our local economy.”

Now in its tenth year in Jacksonville, ATHENAPowerLink® is one of only 35 nationwide mentoring programs targeting women-owned businesses that are at least two years old and beyond the initial start-up challenges. The program connects participating business owners with a panel of six to eight unpaid advisors who agree to work with the business owner for one year and help her accomplish her business goals. With the aid of panel members who are leaders and professionals in their fields, the mentoring program creates a support system for the women entrepreneurs working to advance their businesses.

ATHENAPowerLink® is funded in part by Foley & Lardner LLP, The LBA Group, Myers Seth Pump, Health Designs and the *Jacksonville Business Journal*.

Applications for the next ATHENAPowerLink® class will be accepted from April 15-May 31. For more information, visit [www.JaxWBC.com](http://www.JaxWBC.com).

### **About the JAX Chamber Foundation**

The JAX Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, incorporated in 1978, in the State of Florida. The Foundation's mission is to promote educational and charitable purposes by leading regional economic development, fostering a positive business climate and leveraging essential resources that create, enhance and expand business in Northeast Florida. Our primary areas of focus include entrepreneurial education, community leadership, improving education and workforce development.

### **About JAX Chamber**

The [JAX Chamber](#) is the business membership organization dedicated to driving quality economic growth in Northeast Florida to make this region the best place to live, work and play. Membership provides the opportunity to connect with and buy from other Chamber members. The connections result in business growth and a more prosperous economy.

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