

DBP announces a \$20,000 grant to study P.C. business incubator

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The Delta Bridge Project has awarded a \$20,000 grant to study the feasibility of developing a business incubator at Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas' historic downtown Ohio Street building, Delta Bridge Project Steering Committee Chairman Elijah Mondy announced today.

The feasibility study will be conducted by the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet), a community-based economic organization that serves the 29 counties of the Appalachian region of Ohio. ACEnet has also worked outside the Appalachian region including work with the Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage

The Ohio Street building in historic downtown Helena-West Helena is ready for occupation and has a current tenant, the Quapaw Canoe Company, which would benefit from business incubator support. Should the feasibility study recommend development of a business incubator, Phillips Community College of the U of A would work to implement the study's recommendations within 12 months using a combination of public and private grant funds.

"This feasibility study will both assess the need for a business incubator and provide a specific roadmap for how to structure the project and create a specialized incubator that would best serve the needs of the local market," Mondy said.

The Delta Bridge Project is a comprehensive community development initiative in Phillips County. The goals of the Delta Bridge Project are outlined in the Phillips County Strategic Community Plan, which was developed by more than 300 Phillips County residents during an 18-month strategic planning process.