



**Utah SBDC**  
Utah Small Business  
Development Center

# 2010 SBDC Recognition

## Entrepreneur Launch Pad

**Founders**

Andrew Willis, Michael Argust, Jay Larkin, Reed Brown, and Cary White

**Nature of Business**

Entrepreneurial Networking

**City**

Kaysville, Utah

**County**

Davis

**Phone**

801-643-0424

**Web Site**

[www.entrepreneurlaunchpad.org](http://www.entrepreneurlaunchpad.org)

**Business Structure**

Non Profit

**Business Began**

January, 2009

**Members**

300+

**“Entrepreneur Launch Pad offers an amazing opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small business owners to connect with other entrepreneurs, get referrals to advance their business and learn about resources available to help them pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.”**

Ron Tucker Chapter Chair and Business Counselor  
Salt Lake Chapter of SCORE  
“Counselors to America’s Small Business”

**Founders: from left to right:**

Andrew Willis, Michael Argust, Jay Larkin, and Reed Brown. Cary White is not in the picture.



The goal of the founders is to continue to establish Entrepreneurial Launch Pad groups around the state and expand the services offered to its members.

Entrepreneur Launch Pad’s first meeting was held in January, 2009, as a group of unemployed people, victims of the economic downturn, gathered to brainstorm businesses they could start. Each of them had been trying to find employment without success. As they recognized the incredible talent and experience they collectively represented, they determined they could hire themselves and in turn put others back to work also. With support and encouragement from Rich Vunder, Frank Sano and Art Kline, of LDS Employment Services, the LDS Employment Resource Center in Centerville, Utah, became the first location for Entrepreneur Launch Pad (ELP).

In the summer of 2009, Steve Cloward and Brent Meikle were invited to speak to the group and were impressed with the networking opportunities it provided for those launching a small

business. Brent Meikle approached Andrew Willis, one of the founders, about establishing a strategic relationship between Entrepreneur Launch Pad, Kaysville SBDC, and the Northfront BRC. With that strategic relationship, the Northfront Business Resource Center became ELP’s new home. Brent Meikle speaks at meetings from time to time, offers consulting services to members, and works with ELP to coordinate training opportunities for its members.

Entrepreneur Launch Pad is open free of charge to everyone and is always looking for new members who need help and want to give back also. Giving Back is their core belief. They encourage an Abundance Mentality – “we receive abundantly as we give to others”.

In the past 18 months, hundreds of entrepreneurs have participated in the weekly meetings. There are currently 339 members on the active mailing list. ELP currently holds weekly meetings in three locations along the Wasatch Front and has received additional requests. The only way to get on the membership list is to participate in at least one meeting. The Davis ELP meets at the Northfront Business Resource Center (Davis Applied Technology College) in Kaysville every Thursday at 1 p.m. The Sandy ELP meets at the Salt Lake Community College – Miller Campus every Friday at 1 p.m. and the new Brigham City ELP meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. (Bridgerland Applied Technology College).

**A Success Story**

"I joined the Entrepreneur Launch Pad shortly after moving to the area. The ELP provided an instant network of like-minded entrepreneurs. It only took a few weeks of attending the networking events and reaching out to ELP members through the website and LinkedIn group to start building new contacts, find potential clients and in general, connect with a group of people willing to offer advice and support. Anyone starting or thinking of starting a business should definitely join the group and tap into this great resource." Andrew Allen, Founder, MoreMarbles.com