

Bowie Ranked #50 out of 405 as Best City in the U.S. For Female Entrepreneurs to Launch their Business

Outranking Laurel, MD at #69

August 19, 2015, Fort Mill, S.C., GoodCall: The city of Bowie, MD was ranked #50 in a new report by data-science group <u>GoodCall</u> as one of the best cities in the U.S. for women entrepreneurs to launch their business.

"Bowie offers women entrepreneurs a healthy economy, strong educational values, and a large percentage of women-owned businesses – 33.16% of the city's establishments are owned by women, higher than the national average and highest on our list," says Eppie Vojt founder of GoodCall. "These components make Bowie a great place for any entrepreneur to start a business."

"The City of Bowie should be at the top of every female entrepreneur's list of cities, where they can find the community, business culture and targeted business support to drive the success of their businesses," says Lisa S. Smith, Executive Director of the Bowie Business Innovation Center. "Women-owned businesses are a distinct community in Bowie, representing more than 33% of all Bowie businesses — which is the highest concentration of women-owned businesses in communities listed in the GoodCall 2015 Best Cities for Women Entrepreneurs report. The City of Bowie led a group of public and private sector partners to invest in the development of practical business support targeted to female entrepreneurs through the business incubation program, the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC). This is the only business incubation program in the State of Maryland that is co-located with a Women's Business Center. Bowie BIC's corporate partners have also supported innovative special programming for women-owned businesses. The City of Bowie is truly 'Open for Business' with female entrepreneurs!"

A total of 405 cities were evaluated on the metrics of core economic strength, business climate for women, professional networking potential and female education values.

The report also features advice for women entrepreneurs provided by national experts from the <u>U.S.</u> <u>Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership</u>, The <u>National Women's Business</u> <u>Council</u> and the <u>American Association of University Women</u>.

Read the full report regarding Bowie's ranking, including methodology and data sources here: http://www.goodcall.com/data-center/2015s-best-cities-for-women-entrepreneurs/

About GoodCall: The GoodCall research team analyzes official government data to develop reports that help students, recent graduates and financial consumers make decisions about their careers, college choices and more. The <u>GoodCall Data Center</u> was born from the idea that in an increasingly complex online marketplace, consumers deserve access to the information they need to make educated financial decisions.

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