

# YOUTH SUMMER BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM AT CHATT STATE

## AYES Youth In Business Training Program by Sisters In Business.Net Debuts at Chattanooga State Technical Community College



### YOUTH IN BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM GETS 'A YES' AT CHATTANOOGA STATE

Empowering Socio-Economic Development of Youth through Education, Employment & Entrepreneurship

**Chattanooga, Tennessee - January 31, 2008** Chattanooga State Technical Community College will host Sisters In Business.Net's AYES Youth In Business Training Program as part of its Spring and Summer 2008 Continuing Education and Workforce Development class schedule. (See catalog right) AYES (Alternative Youth Economic Solutions) is designed for youth/young adults 15 and older as a way of supplementing their life and career paths with alternative income options.

Workshop-like classes will provide upbeat, hands-on, and interactive learning, that is results-oriented and offers three diverse certificates: Computer Operations, Office Skills, and Interpersonal Skills Development. Students will create business projects, a professional portfolio, and leverage networking resources to help assure job readiness and a competitive edge in the marketplace. Scholarship funding is also available.

The purpose of AYES is to empower youth as employees and entrepreneurs through education, enrichment, enterprise, employment and economic development. The program also serves to help generate paying positions for students in the form of high-school and college internships, part-time and full-time positions, and entrepreneur business opportunities.

The program, designed and developed by Tekelia Kelly, founder and owner of Sisters In Business.Net and Chattanooga State adjunct Computer Technology instructor, will interface with area businesses seeking to connect with today's young workforce, and offer employment, networking and/or business partnering opportunities.

Businesses will be given the opportunity to serve as subject matter experts on class business projects and applications as they relate to their businesses, and have a platform to demo products and services, share company information, and present job opportunities.

The two-tiered program has a curriculum that can be delivered as tracks themed: "Mind Your Business", which focuses on developing one's business skills for personal life and career; and "Mind Your Own Business", which focuses on developing one's entrepreneur business skills.

Computer technology and business skills training, blended with career development, mentoring, and business community interaction, make for viable alternatives that can empower the socio-economic development and income opportunities of youth. That's 'A Yes'!

#### Contact Info

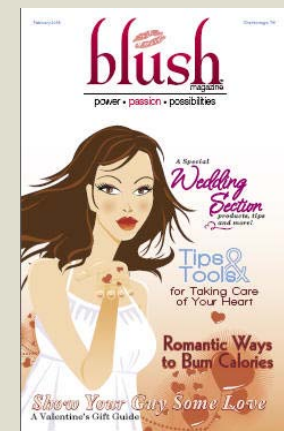
For more information about the AYES Youth In Business program at Chattanooga State Technical Community College, please visit [www.sistersinbusiness.net](http://www.sistersinbusiness.net). To register and for information about scholarships, contact Chattanooga State at 423-697-3100. If you are a business or professional who would like to participate in the AYES Youth in Business program as a sponsor, employer, or mentor; or if you would like to make a donation, please email [sistersinbusiness@comcast.net](mailto:sistersinbusiness@comcast.net), or contact Tekelia Kelly at 423.421.5646.

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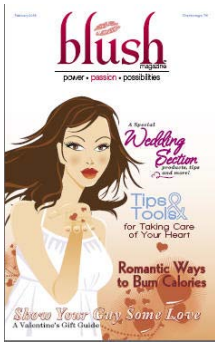
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Tekelia C. Kelly, SIB-AYES CEO  
 AYES also seen in Chattanooga State Spring & Summer Schedule, and Blush Magazine February 2008



"Her Mark" Article p. 34



BLUSH MAGAZINE 'Her Mark' Article, February 2008, Chattanooga, TN

# Tekelia Kelly

by Nancy Henderson



"Exuberant" might be too mild a word to describe Tekelia Kelly. The minute you ask her about Sisters in Business, the company she founded two years ago to promote businesswomen in the marketplace, she starts talking faster. "My passion and my vision give me energy;" says the petite, outgoing entrepreneur with the startlingly firm handshake. "I want the community to be connected. I want everybody to win."

A self-proclaimed "geek;" Tekelia majored in industrial engineering at the University of Memphis and, for 15 years, worked as a service engineer, project manager and information technology consultant. In 1995, she started her own computer training business, FYI (For Your Information), setting up programs for companies and schools. By 1998, she and her husband were ready to come back to Chattanooga, their hometown.

One day in early 2006, she and her sister were talking about how difficult it is for women to start and maintain their own businesses. "Well, the first thing that needs to happen;" she blurted out, "is that everybody needs to be connected." Inspired by the conversation, Tekelia went home, created the Sisters in Business (SIB) website and set out to offer advertising, training and networking events ranging from mixers to workshops to trade shows. The company, she points out, is "a for-profit business with non-profit outreach appeal." Members hail from all socioeconomic, cultural and professional backgrounds. Some own home-based businesses, mom-and-pop stores and franchises; others are doctors, lawyers and high-level executives. "It is so beautiful to see;" says Tekelia "You get all these different women, but they all have a heart of sisterhood."

A performer at heart, she's too busy to pursue theater work right now, but she makes time to sing on her church's praise team. And SIB gives her the creative elbowroom she's always craved. "When I was in the corporate world, I would always have to water myself down;" she says. "Now I can be all the things I'm shaped to be."



She is especially fired" up about AYES (Youth Economic Solutions-the acronym is pronounced a-yes), a training and internship program for teens and young adults, which is now being offer at Chattanooga State. It's a 3-Certificate job readiness

for ages 15 and up. "There are certain parts of our culture that got lost in terms of mentoring and interpersonal skills." Tekelia says, excitement rising in her voice. "The baton handoff got lost somewhere between adults and youth. It is my passion--can you tell I'm passionate?—to help bridge that."