

west virginia EXECUTIVE

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Young Guns 2000

Paul Helmick

President and CEO, CornerStone Technology Group
Executive Vice-President of Central City Online dba EZNET

"Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, reverent . . ." The words that Paul Helmick, a young Boy Scout in Troop 250, learned years ago still roll off his tongue with an inspiring cadence. Today Paul holds to these same principles, but applies them in a high-tech business world quite different from the West Virginia mountains that he hiked and explored growing up. Paul is widely regarded as one of West Virginia's business leaders helping to bring people and technology closer together.

Paul established himself as a leader in the development of West Virginia's technology industry when he co-founded CityNet Corporation in 1994, which has grown to be the state's largest ISP. He served as president of CityNet from its inception to 1997 and values the experience of managing and leading high-growth companies. Paul has degrees in computer science and electronic engineering from WV State College. His career has taken him through programming software for the coal industry, distinguished military service in tactical communications and resulted in several advanced technical certifications as well as being a recognized public speaker on topics of technology.

"Starting and growing a business at an early age grows you up fast—I count these experiences and relationships as foundational to the perspective I have today." Paul smiles about "literally starting on the kitchen table," when he thinks of the companies he has founded, Spectrum Technologies in 1990, CityNet in 1994, DataCorp Communications in 1996. "My wife, Sara, jokes that I'm a bit of a packrat. We just donated that kitchen table to Goodwill this past week . . . I'm a bit nostalgic and it's one of the hardest things I've done all year."

In December of 1999, Central City Online dba EZNET acquired the CornerStone Technology Group. Following CityNet, Paul had joined CornerStone (formerly MicroAge of Charleston) to serve as the Vice President of Marketing & Business Development. In less than 2 ½ years, in January of 2000, Paul was asked to serve as President and CEO of the CornerStone Technology Group as well as the Executive Vice-President of EZNET.

CornerStone specializes in providing professional consulting and network and system integration services, as well as internet-related applications and communication solutions for advanced voice, video, and data networks. Central City Online is a regional Integrated Communications Provider whose recent acquisitions of West Virginia wireless broadband, telecom, and network integration firms make the firm the largest private technology company in the state with over 100 employees.

"These mergers have created a new type of company that can serve clients in incredible new ways. We have a fantastic group of shareholders and board to work for. But it takes good people's effort, energy, time and trust to bring something like this together. We have a great team focused on a clear mission: To help organizations use technology to improve their business."

Paul's reputation has allowed him to contribute on an international level through representing West Virginia technology opportunities to a number of foreign companies investing in West Virginia businesses. JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and the West Virginia Governor's Office of Technology, led by Dr. Sam Tulley and Mark Lowdermilk, in conjunction with the West Virginia Development Office, traveled to Japan this past July. Paul and his wife Sara were part of the delegation on that trade mission representing technology business leaders working to establish international technology business opportunities in West Virginia and Japan.

"Trust is the foundation for communication and understanding. It's often the harder choice, but it is the key ingredient to effective individuals, teams and companies."

Paul is emphatic that these successes have only been possible with the strong support of exceptional individuals. "A big part of who I am comes from those around me who have challenged, supported, coached and counseled me in this journey. It is a tremendous honor and privilege to work again with people for the second and third time—quite a story of a team working and staying together."

Paul is insistent in recognizing the team of influential people that have been in his life: "David Lowe's wisdom and discernment, and Loren Claypool's example of self-management and interpersonal leadership really shaped my thinking about business and management. Thomas Loehr and Anthony Mazelon, early venture capital partners, introduced invaluable financial insight and discipline. CityNet's co-founders, Mark Burdette, a selfless, clear thinker, committed to quality relationships and results, and Rob White with his visionary ideas and drive. Troy Young has always delivered rock-solid technical solutions and has the ability to solve almost any problem. And, last but not least, Mary Sue Helmick, a friend, a professional, a mother who has anchored a young team of entrepreneurs with her maturity, experience and professionalism and greatly contributed to our collective success."

Paul's strong business acumen, credibility and enthusiasm inspire trust and confidence. He feels accountable to keep focused on service to others, whether they are customers, employees or shareholders. Paul hopes to someday start a venture capital fund for kids and support younger entrepreneurs' need to grow, develop and be rewarded right here in West Virginia. "I am very careful what I choose to be involved in. Faith and family come first. Life is so precious and so short. Only where a meaningful contribution can be made will I be found. I believe in the greater possibilities and potential of every person and moment. Trust and teamwork are the keys. Life expects a certain amount of achievement—it demands lasting contribution."

Helmick Committed to Building Businesses

By DANNY FORINASH

dforinash@statejournal.com

CHARLESTON — For Paul Helmick, experience is necessary to find success, whether he is teaching eager entrepreneurs or learning from the professionals who have gathered decades of knowledge.

Helmick is the CEO of Charleston-based Premier Strategies.

"You grow and improve based on the books you read and the people you meet," Helmick said.

"The more I live, the more I seek to meet exciting, experienced people."

Premier Strategies, which launched in 2002, already has served about 40 clients, according to Helmick.

"We spend a lot of time advising, coaching and counseling clients on how to buy, sell or grow businesses," said Helmick, the firm's principal broker and management consultant.

"We offer value, experience and relationships."

Premier provides connections, as well.

Connecting Experience

"Anytime someone can share with you what they've been through, allowing you to skip the trial-and-error process, it saves you some time," Helmick explained. "I love helping people connect in that way."

Helmick said the fatal fallacy in business is presuming technical skills include prowess on the business end.

"Most business people have good technical skills," he said.

"Most of them work in the business, not on the business."

Premier doesn't just help in the start of a business. And his company goes beyond the cultivation of businesses. Premier Strategies also helps buy and sell.

"Selling a business is not like real estate. You can't just place a listing," Helmick said.

"You have to find someone to help sell the company."

For larger corporations, he added, "we keep an eye out for companies they might like to acquire."

"The essence of our business is our passion to help people achieve success as they define it," Helmick said.

Essentially, Premier's niche is the "business of business," according to Helmick. Many professions offer counsel — attorneys, accountants, financial consultants, real estate agents, bankers. Business brokers bring this knowledge together, forming a roadmap to business stability and success.

"We help bring a sense of order," Helmick said.

"Growing a business is a challenge. It's not easy. It's not easy to manage people. It's not easy to manage money, to manage markets, to manage customers. And a lot of things are outside your control."

Helmick should know. Since 1990, he has been starting, managing and nurturing businesses.

Meeting Needs

Helmick was still in college when he founded Spectrum Technologies, a database and systems development firm. The company concentrated on the health care industry.

Technology mixed well with his degrees in computer science, electrical engineering and marketing that he gathered from West Virginia University Institute of Technology and West Virginia State University.

During that time, he spent six years with the Army National Guard, "a fantastic experience," he said.

Helmick served as a tactical communications chief and was a distinguished honor graduate with the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiments.

"The military taught me a level of personal discipline, teamwork and leadership I hadn't seen before," said Helmick.

"I learned a lot about how everyone works together to achieve a goal, and it's the most serious of goals," he said.

CityNet Co-Founder

In 1994, Helmick co-founded CityNet Corp., the first and largest Internet service provider in West Virginia, with Mark Burdette, now the general manager of the Entrepreneurial League System. CityNet was the response to a need, Helmick said.

"Law firms couldn't trade e-mails with each other," he said. "It's weird to think of that now, but at that time it's how things were. ... The Web was just starting out."

CityNet installed networks throughout the state as Internet servers became popular. The company collected venture capital funds and grew at "an incredible pace." But Helmick already was setting his sights elsewhere.

Helmick left CityNet 1997. He said it was the right time.

Who's WH 2004 IN WEST VIRGINIA BUSINESS

Paul Helmick, CEO of Premier Strategies

"I wanted to leave on a high note."

CityNet has seen four owners and has developed a "regional, if not national, presence," servicing thousands of customers. Much of the company's success was under Helmick's direction.

"It's exciting to see something I started carry on," Helmick said. "Most businesses don't succeed their founders."

Managing Small Business

Next, Helmick founded DataCorp Communications, an information technology firm.

He eventually joined CornerStone Technology Group, a network integration company that specialized in Y2K upgrades. The company installed systems for the health care and banking sectors. He spent five years with CornerStone and was president for two of those years.

"It was a tremendous experience because I got to manage the company during its growth up to Y2K and during the decline that followed," he said.

"For a young person, having managerial experience during a downturn is invaluable."

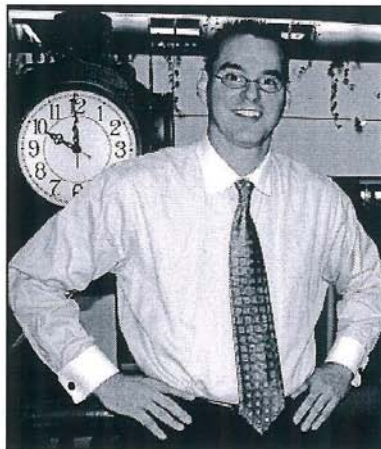
In 2002, Helmick left CornerStone. He also left the Internet service and wireless provider Central City Online, of which he had been chief operating officer since 2000.

This time, his sights were set on business counseling and a new company he would eventually name Premier Strategies.

"I'm a young business owner meeting an unmet need for business counseling," Helmick said.

"I wish there was someone like me around when I was starting out."

Not that he didn't have help along the way. Like many other small business owners, Helmick learned a few business tips from his friends and co-workers.



DANNY FORINASH / The State Journal

Paul Helmick, CEO of Premier Strategies, has been starting and nurturing his own companies since 1990. He started his first company while still in college.

"We help bring a sense of order. Growing a business is a challenge. It's not easy. It's not easy to manage people. It's not easy to manage money, to manage markets, to manage customers. And a lot of things are outside your control."

— Paul Helmick, CEO of Premier Strategies

"I had some great mentors who took a personal interest in helping us at CityNet," he said.

Helmick, a St. Albans native, also has learned from his family. His father, Roger, was an estimating engineer for Kanawha Manufacturing. His mother, Mary, has worked with Helmick for the past 10 years and is involved with Premier.

Experience Comes Around

Today, aside from Premier, Helmick has delved into West Virginia Venture Connection and the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center (MATRIC), both of which allow him to more broadly help improve the state's business climate, Helmick said.

"I'm kind of at that point in my life when I'm select about who I work with," said Helmick.

Helmick also has been involved with West Virginia: A Vision Shared, the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, Young Presidents Organization and West Virginia Entrepreneurial Forums.

"I could choose to fill up all my time with client work," Helmick said.

"But what I'm doing is choosing to devote a big portion of my time to things that are even more significant than short-term client success."

Venturing Out

He said he considers himself "a good match" for the non-profit Venture Connection.

The objective of Venture Connection is expanding venture capital and angel investment in West Virginia through entrepreneur education programs, venture capital presentation meetings and a formal network of angel investors.

The organization hired Helmick as executive director on a part-time basis in August.

Eric Lewis, Venture Connection's chairman, said Helmick "has a record and reputation of being committed to the growth and success of businesses in West Virginia. His experience with high-growth startups and venture capital, as well as his relationships statewide, gave us great confidence in asking him to lead this initiative."

The point is to connect entrepreneurs with venture companies, and Helmick's job is to spark the effort, compiling an inventory of venture firms and angel networks. Helmick said he's prepared for such a job.

"I have experience with growing businesses and venture capital," Helmick said. "The point of Venture Connection is to stimulate capital investment in West Virginia and create new opportunities for businesses looking to find angel investment and better, secure venture capital. We expect big opportunities to come West Virginia's way."

Marketing New Ideas

Helmick is the executive director of commercialization for MATRIC, a non-profit corporation in South Charleston.

MATRIC's mission is to move chemical, polymer science, medicine and mechanical engineering research ideas to commercialization. The group's goal is to help displaced workers from the chemical and engineering sectors spark new business.

Helmick's role, fittingly, includes helping to initiate those new technology companies and "taking new ideas to the marketplace."

His objective also is to match the right investors with the right businesses, as "it is nice for a manufacturing firm to find investors who understands manufacturing."

"I want to help create wealth and jobs here in the Kanawha Valley," Helmick said. "...I've seen firsthand the challenges of business. I'm trying to help others with that."

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DECEMBER 3, 2004



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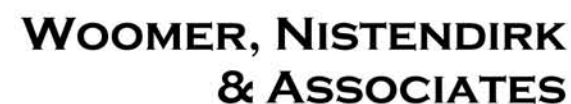


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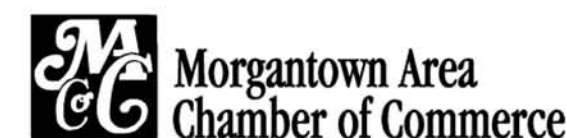


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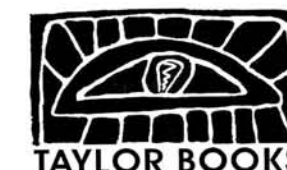
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University of Charleston Executive MBA Program

Dear Paul:

Just wanted to let you how much of an impact you have had with the candidates in our Executive MBA program. Your volunteering to speak to several of our classes over the past three years has added immensely to the quality and content of the class. Specifically, your very strong management, marketing and entrepreneurial background is probably the reason the candidates have consistently named you as the best resource individual in the program.

Again, many thanks for your participation.
I look forward to having you with us on future occasions!

Bob Bliss

--

Robert L. Bliss
Chair, Herbert Jones Division of Business
Associate Dean, Graduate School of Business
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Business

Friday December 14, 2007

Colorado-based firm buys Citynet wholesale division

by George Hohmann

Daily Mail Business Editor

A Colorado-based company announced it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the wholesale division of communications provider Citynet.

Zayo Group, headquartered in Louisville, Colo., said Citynet Fiber Network - the wholesale division of Citynet - will become a part of Zayo Bandwidth, Zayo Group's fiber-based bandwidth business unit.

Zayo said the purchase is expected to close in early 2008. The value of the transaction was not disclosed.

Entrepreneurs Paul Helmick and Mark Burdette established Citynet in Charleston in 1994 as an Internet service provider. In 1998 the company merged with MarCom, a Fairmont Web site designer. City Holding Co., the corporate parent of City National Bank, bought Citynet in 1998.

City Holding sold the company in 2001 to James Martin, who had headed the company when it was a unit of the bank holding company. Investing in Citynet with Martin was Platinum Properties, a partnership of Milan Puskar, a co-founder of Mylan Laboratories, and Morgantown real estate entrepreneurs Steve Lorenze and Parry Petroplus.

After the dot-com bubble burst in 2000, Citynet transformed itself by buying a nine-mile fiber-optic network in downtown Columbus, Ohio; Adelphia Business Solutions' networks in Phoenix, Chicago, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Tri-Cities, Tenn.; and an 8,000-mile fiber system spanning 13 states and Washington, D.C.

Following the acquisitions, Citynet reorganized into two divisions - retail and wholesale. The retail division is the outgrowth of the original company. It offers local and long-distance telephone service, phone service over the Internet, Internet service, Web site hosting, e-mail and data services.

The wholesale division, created from the company's big purchases earlier this decade, serves about 40 large carriers such as MCI, Qwest and Sprint.

The division has major switching centers in Columbus and Pittsburgh, Pa. The division's offerings include private lines, co-location services and local access for other carriers.

In 2005 Citynet completed a five-year financing plan that included a \$12.5 million loan from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund.

In 2005 interviews, Citynet executives said the company had about 145 employees, including about 80 who work in West Virginia - primarily at Bridgeport.

It was not immediately clear how many employees will be affected by the sale of the wholesale division. Don Molter, Citynet's vice president of communications, could not be immediately reached for comment this morning.

Zayo said the acquisition would double its metro and regional fiber route miles.

Contact writer George Hohmann at busin...@dailymail.com or 348-4836.

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Business

Group hopes to unite venture capital community

By Jim Balow

balow@wvgazette.com

The money is there — about \$100 million of venture capital, waiting to be invested.

The network is there — nearly a dozen venture capital firms, certified to do business in West Virginia. The infrastructure is there, one the envy of other states, thanks to the foresight of the state Legislature.

Perhaps the only missing element is a wealth of entrepreneurs with visionary ideas for new companies, ready to set up shop in the Mountain State.

"All of us are continuing to look for venture-backable companies in the state," said Eric

Lewis, executive director of Walker Ventures of Shepherdstown and Glenwood, Md.

"I can't say we've found a critical mass, but none of us were under the delusion we'd find that right away anyway. We're trying to put together the deals for 2007. That's why it takes us working today. But we're not seeing the volume of deals we'd like to see."

To try to solve that problem and build a new state economy, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., helped organize a group last spring called the West Virginia Venture Connection. Walker serves as chairman of the group's nine-person board of directors. The board also includes a couple



Paul Helmick, acting executive director,
West Virginia Venture Connection

**"That's our challenge,
to connect the
entrepreneurs with the
venture companies.
There's a component of
networking and a
component of education."**

of bankers, a couple of lawyers, an accountant, another venture capitalist, a real estate agent and a member of Rockefeller's staff.

In August, they hired their first employee, Paul Helmick, who

serves as acting executive director on a part-time basis. Helmick, CEO of Premier Strategies LLC, is the co-founder of CityNet, the state's largest Internet provider.

"My responsibility is to launch

the organization," Helmick said. "The business plan for the first year is to build on the momentum of the launch by Senator Rockefeller."

Helmick is the day-to-day coordinator, Walker said. "He spent the last 90 days meeting with various organizations, seeing how the West Virginia Venture Connection can help them. He's developing a plan of how the Venture Connection can help all the venture capital companies in the state."

Helmick sees the Venture Connection as kind of a site for one-stop shopping for entrepreneurs. "That's our challenge, to connect the entrepreneurs with the venture companies. There's a

component of networking and a component of education.

"We're in the process of compiling an inventory of venture companies and angel networks."

Like venture capital, angel investing is an alternative source of early funding for entrepreneurs, outside of traditional bank loans.

"Angel investing is the earliest type of investing, by high-worth individuals," Walker said. "It generally comes before venture capital. It comes in small amounts and is usually hands-on — they're involved in early stages in providing assistance and knowledge."

Until now, entrepreneurs have

Please see **CAPITAL, 2D**

CAPITAL

Continued from 1D

not had a single source to go to for early funding, Helmick said.

"They've had to call on individual venture capital companies. That's a frustrating journey. Our plan is to be a valuable entity in making that venture capital money more visible.

"Our second statewide inventory is called EDO, or entrepreneurial developing organizations. They might be government or nonprofit service providers or private entities — legal and accounting types of services."

This group includes programs like the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the University of Charleston and Innova, the commercialization division of the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation in Fairmont, he said.

By early next year, the group should have a physical presence in addition to its Web site, www.wvvc.org. "Part of the business plan is to have an office, very likely in Charleston," Helmick said.

Though his company doesn't have a seat on the board, Andy Zulauf, head of the Charleston office of Adena Ventures, said the Venture Connection can act as a warehouse for venture deals.

"I'm sure the venture companies around the state have ample deal flow activity," he said. "I'm sure they say 'no' more than they say 'yes.' That doesn't mean the ideas are bad. Some venture companies may have a very narrow focus. The Venture Connection may be able to help direct entrepreneurs to other sources.

"I was speaking with Paul earlier," Zulauf said. "We [at Adena] may look at 50 deals a year. We may fund only 15. What happens to the other 35? The Venture Connection may be able to help."

Helmick is also working with a Vision Shared committee to boost angel investing across the state. "Something new and exciting in 2005 is to develop an angel investor network," he said. "I think there will be a formal announcement from Vision Shared in the near future."

Unlike venture capital, there is no state tax benefit for angel investors, Zulauf said.

"Up until now, entrepreneurs have struggled finding high net worth people interested in investing in new ventures," he said. "In my thinking, there needs to be a program to help incentive angel investors aside from the time you finally cash out of your investment. That's something the Manchin administration may want to look into."

Helmick is optimistic about building a new economy in the state. "Inc. magazine recently published the 500 fastest-growing companies in the U.S.," he said. "West Virginia has a chance to have companies like that."

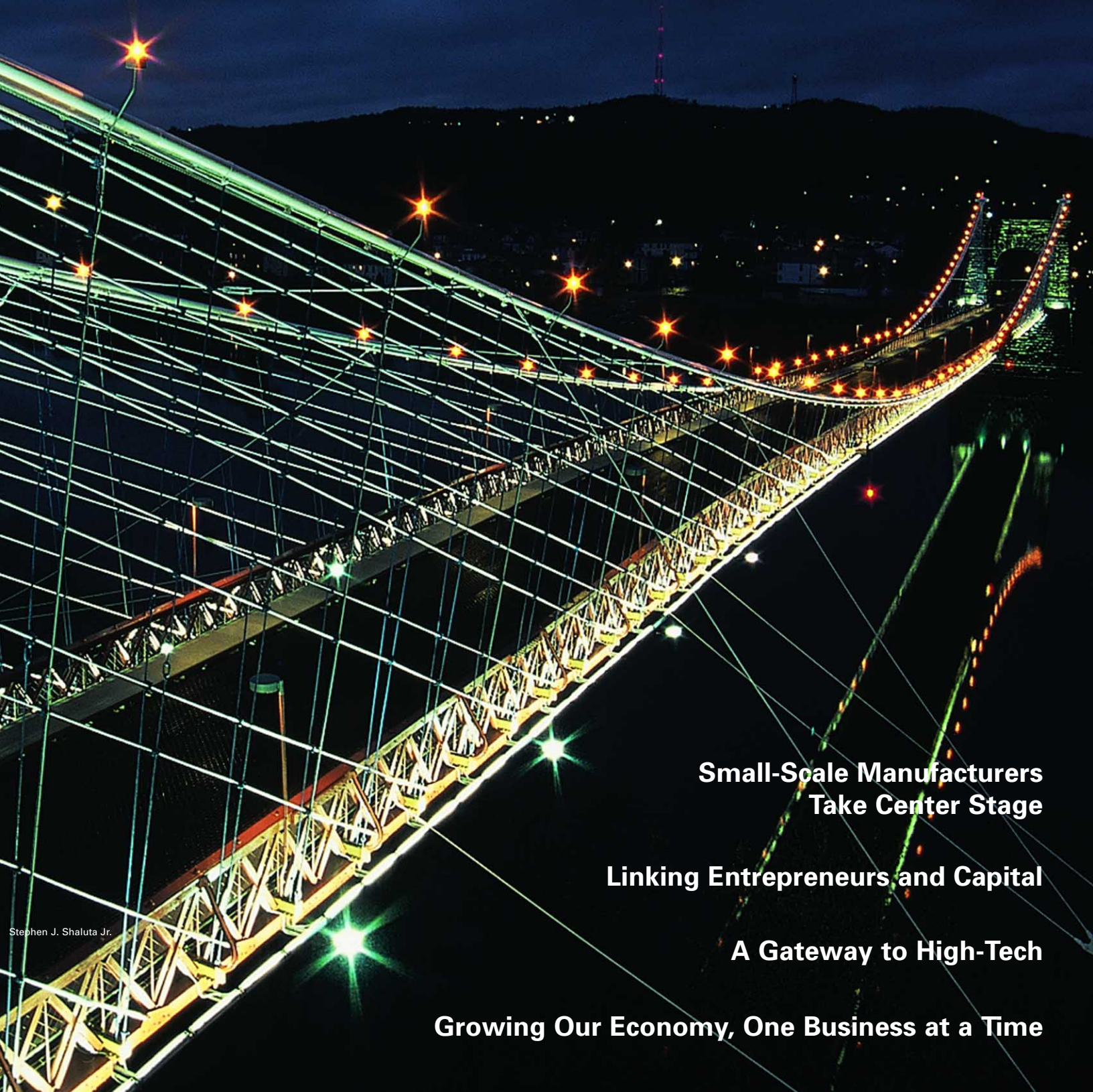
"I think it takes time. There's a synergy to places like Boston and the Silicon Valley. Can we get there? I think so. There's a generation that wants to do that. Now we have the funding to do that."

To contact staff writer Jim Balow, use e-mail or call 348-5102.

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Discover

The **REAL** West Virginia Foundation



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Growing Our Economy, One Business at a Time

Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.

Linking Entrepreneurs and Capital

Five years ago, Senator Jay Rockefeller sat down in the living room of his Charleston home with a group of business leaders.

“We talked about how this State needs venture capital and that we needed a strong support system for entrepreneurs,” he recalled. “We asked ourselves what it would take to revitalize our State’s economy and how we could create an economic revolution that would promote growth and innovation.”

Hundreds of follow-up conversations and meetings later, the end result – the West Virginia Venture Connection – was launched during a May 25 celebration at the Clay Center in Charleston.

Eric Lewis, WVVC Chairman and Executive Director of Walker Ventures in Shepherdstown, said the network will be the “first aggregator of venture capital and equity capital in the state. We’ll be a one-stop shop for businesses looking to find out about venture capital and how to develop their businesses so they are appropriate for venture capital.”

Dr. Charles M. Vest, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a graduate of West Virginia University, delivered the keynote address at the event, which was attended by state government representatives, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, angel investors, service providers, economic developers and other business leaders.

“Entrepreneurship is about path-breaking, not about following the crowd,” Vest said. “Find your own niches and clusters. Find your comparative advantage, based on focused, realistic but passionate ambition.

“Aim only for world-class activities, and stay the course. Concentrate on real products that meet real needs. Remember that risk and failure are all part of the game.”

The West Virginia Venture Connection’s mission is to increase capital funding and stimulate job growth in the State through education and networking of entrepreneurs, capital providers and service providers. The network was funded in part by a \$75,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

“The high-tech dreams and marketing strategies of today’s entrepreneurs are to



(left to right) Senator Jay Rockefeller; keynote speaker Dr. Charles M. Vest, President, MIT; and Phyllis Arnold, Regional President, BB&T and Board Member of the DRWV Foundation and WVVC.

this century what coal seams and iron ore were to the last one: the raw material of jobs, progress and economic growth,” Senator Rockefeller said.

“But to realize those dreams and jobs, today’s entrepreneurs need venture capital – the cash to rent facilities, buy technology and hire staff. They also need a network that provides critical opportunities for peer learning, linkages to others involved with starting and growing new businesses, and the local expertise about how to succeed.”

West Virginia already possesses a number of the resources required to encourage start-ups and expand new businesses, Senator Rockefeller said. These include a higher education system that produces future entrepreneurs who are motivated and technologically savvy; a ready source of experienced managers and proven workers from traditional industries such as steel and chemicals; and tax incentives that enhance job creation, attract venture capital firms and encourage strategic research and development.

But there needs to be a way to match these resources to actions, Senator Rockefeller added. “I believe the West Virginia Venture Connection is the missing piece of the puzzle. It’s an instant network, an educational institution and a matchmaker between capital

resources and new businesses, all rolled into one.”

The WVVC has recently hired Paul Helmick, a veteran entrepreneur and business consultant, as its Acting Executive Director. The WVVC Board of Directors includes: Eric Lewis, Walker Ventures, Chairman; Tom Heywood, Bowles, Rice McDavid Graff & Love LLP; Beth Lord, Jackson Kelly PLLC; Rudy Henley, Mountaineer Capital; Ed Spiva, Anthem Capital; John Gianola, Ernst & Young; Mark Prince, Bank One; Phyllis Arnold; BB&T, and Terri Giles, Office of Senator Rockefeller.

For more information on the WVVC please contact Paul Helmick at paul.helmick@wvvc.org or go to www.wvvc.org.



(left to right) Tom Heywood, Member, Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love LLP and Board Member of the DRWV Foundation and WVVC; Bob Simpson, Simpson & Osborne A.C.; and Harry Mills, BIDCO.

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(left to right) Eric Lewis, Chairman of the
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Jay Rockefeller and Chuck Vest.

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West Virginia SBDD Plants Seeds for Economic Prosperity

The West Virginia Development Office's Small Business Development Division increases entrepreneurial success throughout the State by providing tools, training, support and advocacy to create jobs and economic prosperity. It is funded by the State of West Virginia, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Appalachian Regional Commission and other host institutions.

Anne Lane, a Business Analyst with the WWSBDD, explains how the agency promotes economic prosperity through its 14 locations around West Virginia.

What is the mission of the Small Business Development Division?

LANE: Our services and programs help West Virginia small businesses grow by strengthening profit margins, improving cash flow, increasing sales and market share, promoting more efficient business planning, improving access to capital, cultivating more productive staffs and assisting with research and implementation of new technologies.

Specifically, what services does the WWSBDD provide?

LANE: We consult with existing businesses and business startups on business plan development, management and personnel issues. In addition, we offer consulting on financial matters and loan package development, including the Linked Deposit Program, the Microloan Program and SBA loan guarantees.

The WWSBDD also offers international trade services; procurement assistance; online or on-site training; Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants; Small Business Work Force Program grants; and the Governor's Ombudsman Program.

What are some of your success stories?

LANE: The WWSBDD customizes its services for diverse clients with unique needs. For example, The Wood Line Inc.

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NEW YORK, Nov. 9 /PRNewswire/ -- StateNewslines announced yesterday at the 2007 Ad:Tech conference in New York its launch of fifty new interactive media properties nationwide. Every U.S. state gets its own one-page news headline site. Each day, news headlines and article links from nearly 3,000 state news sources are indexed and aggregated on one page for each state. Visitors can see all the news headlines in their state by visiting <http://www.statenewsline.com>.

Free to use, each StateNewslines website provides a convenient daily view of news headlines and article links for most every daily and weekly newspaper, television station, and news radio station in any given state. News indexes and article links are updated hourly. By allowing executives and busy professionals to easily scan news headlines statewide, readers can quickly find articles of interest, making the site a valuable, time-saving resource. Clicking any headline link takes the reader to the news article on the content

provider's website to see the full story. Users can personalize their page to see just the news sources that interest them and mobile versions of the site for the BlackBerry and iPhone are soon to be released.

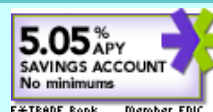
Paul Helmick, the company's founder and CEO says, "StateNewslines was created to help busy executives and professionals save time finding news articles of interest in their state. By giving professionals their own 'executive summary' of daily news that is localized, customized, and convenient, we help people stay up to date with their news that matters most." StateNewslines provides an experience similar to Yahoo!, Topix or Google News, but differs with the company's intense focus on news in a single state. "By providing a contextual index of links to news articles in a single state, we connect information with the community that needs it. Executives and professionals love the site because it's a relevant view of news that matters to them. This helps them avoid the information



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overload they often face," says Helmick.

Two premium paid services are also offered, and substantially discounted, to public relations firms, marketing consultancies, advertising agencies, press and broadcast associations, non-profit organizations, lobbyists, associations and government organizations. A daily clipping/media monitoring service allows firms or individuals to monitor news headlines in their state and receive daily emails when keywords of interest are published. And a self-service news release distribution feature shares your news release via email/fax to news editors and media professionals in any particular state. Both services differ from most national providers because of StateNewsline's additional depth and coverage within each state.

Helmick says, "With over 12 million businesses in the U.S. there are 25-50 million busy executives and professionals that don't have time to stay up to date with all the breaking news in their state...StateNewslines meets the professional's need and demand for a simple, convenient way to stay up to date with state news -- and ultimately save their time. Our motto -- State by State. News for the Nation."

About StateNewslines, LLC

StateNewslines, LLC helps executives and busy professionals save time finding news articles of interest in their state. The company's news indexing and aggregation services create convenient one-page news headline sites for each state in the country. The company also provides clipping, media monitoring and news release distribution services on a state-by-state basis. The company operates over 100 interactive media properties and indexes over 40,000 state news headline article links each day.

Paul Helmick, the company's President and Founder, is a recognized serial entrepreneur and a 15-year veteran of technology/marketing start-ups. Mr. Helmick has formerly served as the CEO of the CornerStone Technology Group and as the former co-founder and President of CityNet Corporation, West Virginia's first and largest Internet Service Provider. Mr. Helmick was recently the recipient of the WV Who's Who in Business award. He and his wife Kristen reside in Charleston, West Virginia.

Contact: Paul Helmick, President & CEO StateNewslines, LLC
800-611-3750 <http://www.statenewslines.com> This release was issued through eReleases(TM). For more information, visit <http://www.ereleases.com>.

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