

## Hispanic entrepreneurs will want to check out this workshop

By *DUSTY RICKETTS / Daily News*

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FORT WALTON BEACH — A free two-day business workshop with seminars and one-on-one consulting to help Hispanic entrepreneurs has been scheduled for next week.

A local Hispanic leadership group partnered with the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida to organize the workshop. It is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 at the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

“This is something that has been lacking in Northwest Florida as the Hispanic community continues to grow, and especially for the people who are not fully fluent,” said David Triana, who helped organize the workshop. “There is no other option for them.”



The workshop is free, but reservations are required. Call 866-525-4243 or 850-226-7066.

The morning sessions are made up of one-on-one consultations with Augusto Sanabria, president and CEO of the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund.

As of Wednesday, only four sessions remained. Although the consultations are for Hispanic entrepreneurs, they are available in English and Spanish.

Much more space is available for the seminars, which are scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. both days and are in Spanish. The Feb. 27 seminar will focus on how to start a business. A seminar dedicated to financing will be Feb. 28.

“We want to create jobs and we want to make sure that those folks who are going into business are ready and equipped with the tools they’re going to need to improve their likeliness of success,” Sanabria said.

The HBIF was created in 1991 in Tampa Bay and soon expanded to Central Florida. In the past few years an office opened in South Florida.

Although Sanabria has attended meetings in Northwest Florida before, this will be the first time HBIF has held a seminar in this part of the state.

Triana said if the seminar is successful, the goal is to hold similar events on a more regular basis.

“It will be very beneficial for anyone that is a current business owner or a future entrepreneur,” Triana said.

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