President’s Message

If asked to sum up NEON’s year in one word, I would say GROWTH. What an incredible year it was!

In 2016, we created unique growth opportunities for business owners through our business incubator, marketplace opportunities and enterprise divisions. We nearly doubled our operating budget through increased grant funding, partnerships and 21st century co-working spaces.

It’s the people that make an organization what it is, and we have a great team leading the way. We’re positioned with the right resources to launch into our new 2017-2020 strategic plan.

The theme of our plan – Building, Growing, Thriving – sets the stage for the critical work that’s needed to help culturally diverse business owners excel.

Whether you’re a client, funder or friend, thank you for being a valued partner. We appreciate your support as we continue to create opportunities where entrepreneurs can start, grow and thrive.

Marcus Owens, MBA
NEON President

2016 Highlights at a Glance

- Provided technical assistance and co-working space memberships to more than 300 entrepreneurs
- Hired 3 new NEON Property Maintenance apprentices
- Conducted over 75 events, workshops, and marketplace opportunities
- Launched NEON’s business incubator and co-working spaces
- Supported 300 entrepreneurs
  - 25 started
  - 6 expanded
  - 85 receiving on-going support
- Successfully incubated 4 businesses through the Northside Food Business Incubator (NFBI) program

2016 Financials

**Expenses**
- Program Services $530,759
- Management and General 77,216
- Fundraising 35,667
- **Total** $643,642

**Support and Revenue**
- Grants and Contributions $370,611
- Government 286,330
- Earned Income 90,682
- **Total** $780,174
NEON is a great resource for me as a first-time business owner.

Sammy McDowell, Owner
Sammy’s Avenue Eatery