



media release

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**FAMOUS DAVE'S FOUNDER ANNOUNCED AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR
MINNESOTA MARKETPLACE FOR ENTREPRENEURS**

MANKATO, Minn. (January 15, 2009) - Dave Anderson, founder of Famous Dave's of America, the legendary BBQ franchise, with over 120 restaurants and growing, will present "The Spirit of Entrepreneurship" as the keynote speaker at the first ever Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs **on February 23**. An enthusiastic advocate of the American Dream, Dave stresses that no matter how tough things may seem today, if you never give up your dream and work hard tomorrow's rewards will always come. As a highly sought after keynote speaker, Dave shares his heartfelt optimism using his life's story to share valuable insight and life lessons in dealing with today's fast changing and challenging world.

Voted the "Hottest Restaurant Concept in America" by Nation's Restaurant News, Famous Dave's has received unprecedented recognition. Most recently, Dave has created KeyLime Cove a \$135 million resort and indoor waterpark paradise just north of Chicago. Anderson was also the first investor in helping found the Rainforest Café, another highly successful nationwide restaurant company. Anderson has helped found three publicly traded companies on Wall Street and created over 20,000 new jobs. In Dave's own life, he has experienced adversity, frustration, and bankruptcy as well as tremendous success. Dave's life story is featured in two New York Times bestsellers. He has served two Presidents and three governors in advisory positions. Dave has provided key testimony before Congress and the U.S. Senate. Always tackling the impossible, this bottom half of the class high school student has earned his Master's Degree from Harvard University without an undergraduate degree! He has appeared on all major networks including: Regis and Kathy Lee, Oprah Winfrey, CNBC The Next Big Idea with Donny Deutsch, Crook & Chase, the Discovery Channel, the Food Network, National Public Radio and over 200 radio shows.

Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs Event Information

In the past, numerous business development service providers held various events to serve entrepreneurs. In an effort to combine resources and create a comprehensive event, business service providers collaborated to develop the Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs*. Area entrepreneurs can access a variety of resources in place at the Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs on **February 23 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm** at Alltel Center, Mankato, MN. The event will include educational sessions, business development service providers serving entrepreneurs, as well as an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services and participate in business plan competitions. The event is open at no charge to the public. Those wishing to exhibit the resources and services they have available to entrepreneurs can visit mnmarketplace.org for details. Entrepreneurs can exhibit their product or service at no charge and a store, operated by our local DECA group, will be available for entrepreneurs to consign their products. The registration deadline for exhibitors is **February 3**.

Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs is sponsored in part by the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Additional sponsorship opportunities are available, contact 507.389.5342 for details. Collaborating partners include Minnesota State University, Mankato, Riverbend Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation, South Central Small Business Development Center, South Central College, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator, a program of Greater Mankato Growth.

For more information on the Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs event, please visit mnmarketplace.org.

*modeled after North Dakota's Marketplace for Entrepreneurs with their permission. For more information on North Dakota's Marketplace for Entrepreneurs visit www.MarketplaceForEntrepreneurs.org

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