The Hot Sheet
The who, when, where, and why of what's happening in Memphis business.

ACCRREDITED
Two international organizations have recently granted accreditation to business programs at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Worldwide. The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACSBP) Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners has awarded the institution accreditation of its business programs online and at each of its more than 150 campuses throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Additionally, the Master of Science in Project Management at Embry-Riddle was recently accredited by the Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs.

AWARDED
Energy Department announced more than $7 million for projects that will help bring cost-effective, advanced hydrogen and fuel cell technologies online faster. This investment in four projects, including in one project led by FedEx Express, based in Memphis, will increase U.S. leadership in fuel cell-powered vehicles and backup power systems, and give businesses more affordable, cleaner transportation and power options. FedEx Express, along with Plug Power and Smith Electric Vehicles, will develop a hydrogen fuel cell delivery truck with a range of up to 150 miles per fueling and test 20 of these trucks at FedEx facilities in Tennessee and California.

APPOINTED
Business owner, global educator, exhibited artist, Agnes Pokrandt takes on a new role as chairperson of the Agricenter International Board of Directors. Pokrandt is the first female chair of the Agricenter Board, and is also currently in graduate school to earn a certificate to teach English as a second language (TESL). Other members of the 2013-14 Board of Directors include Executive Committee members Steve Shields, Vice-Chairman - Operations Committee Chair; Jim Boyd, Treasurer - Financial Committee Chair; Penny Estes, Secretary; Joe McKinnon, Past Chair - Nominating Committee Chair; John Charles Wilson, President; Joe Callaway, At Large Member - Marketing Committee Chair; and Charles Askew, At Large Member.

United Housing, Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing agency that serves families in the City of Memphis, Shelby County and West Tennessee, has received a $50,000 grant from the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) as part of the organization's 15th Annual Grants Showcase and Volunteer Recognition event. The grant will be used to help cover the cost of United Housing's Homebuyer Education and Counseling program, which is based on nationally approved curriculum and tailored to address the unique circumstances of the Mid-South market.

Hired
Ogiltree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., one of the largest labor and employment law firms representing management, hired Imad Abdullah as a shareholder in the firm's Memphis office. Abdullah, who has nearly 10 years of employment and labor litigation experience, joins Ogiltree Deakins from the Memphis office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. Abdullah currently serves as president of the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association, legislative/government relations chair of the Memphis chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), and secretary of the Labor & Employment Section of the Memphis Bar Association.

David Charles Brown joined the staff of Memphis Goodwill, Inc., as its new manager of marketing and communications. Brown will provide marketing and communications support for Memphis Goodwill's nine stores and 25 attended donation centers, as well as working in media relations, social media and community events. Prior to joining Memphis Goodwill, Brown was a production assistant and digital content producer for WKNO-TV in Memphis. He has also worked as a communications assistant for former Congressman Harold Ford Jr. (TN-09). He holds a degree in English and Broadcast Journalism from the University of Memphis.

Greg Davis has joined Century Wealth Management as its Director of Portfolio Management. Prior to joining Century Wealth Management, Davis has held roles as a financial advisor, a tax preparer, and a manager of a debt collection service. He holds a Certificate in Public Accounting and is a candidate for CFP certification. Davis received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Christian Brothers University. He is involved in various community and professional organizations including serving on the boards of the Tennessee Society of CPAs and the Financial Planners Association of Greater Memphis. He is also active in several mentoring programs throughout Memphis.

Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon hired Justin Graham, GISP, as Information Management Practice Leader to oversee a new service that will provide the firm a breadth...