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## **Former Restek “Head Coach” Joins TechCelerator Team!**

**STATE COLLEGE, PA** – The Ben Franklin TechCelerator@State College is pleased to announce that former Restek “Head Coach”, Mr. Donald McCandless has joined the program.

In his new role, Don will lead and coordinate the efforts of the TechCelerator@State College, a partnership among several local economic development programs including Ben Franklin, the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County/Centre County Industrial Development Corporation, and the Penn State Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which offers the region the “Next Generation of Entrepreneurial Support & Business Incubation Services.” For program details click on [www.techceleratorstatecollege.org](http://www.techceleratorstatecollege.org).

Stephen Brawley, President and CEO of Ben Franklin Technology Partners/CNP, commented, “We feel very fortunate that someone with Don’s background and experience was available to fill this important position. His expertise in running a tech-based business will be invaluable to our Ben Franklin portfolio companies as well as the entrepreneurs who need the services provided by the TechCelerator.”

In addition to his support of the incubator program, Don will also be the principal point-of-contact for the Ben Franklin Transformation Business Services Network in State College and the surrounding counties. In this role, his primary responsibility is to deliver critical management assistance to emerging, tech-based start-ups, which includes offering business support services relative to financial planning, cash management, market research, marketing strategy, corporate strategy, accounting operations, and software training.

A graduate of Notre Dame with a Master’s Degree in Business, Don also has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Pennsylvania State University. For 20 years he held a variety of positions at the Bellefonte-based, Restek Corporation, culminating in five-years as “Head Coach.” During his tenure, Restek, a leading developer of chromatographic materials, columns and accessories for gas and liquid chromatography, grew from 30 employees to a total of 275. The company was subsequently sold to the employees as part of an ESOP agreement.

Involved in the local community for the past 15 years, Don is a former board member of the Chamber of Business & Industry, a volunteer for State College Little League, a volunteer instructor for the Penn State Karate Club, and was part of a group that launched Centre

Volunteers in Medicine in 2003, a free medical clinic for the uninsured in Centre County. Don can be reached at [d1m74@psu.edu](mailto:d1m74@psu.edu).

**About Ben Franklin:**

Ben Franklin Technology Partners/CNP, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and funded by the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, provides investment capital, operational assistance, and entrepreneurial support to emerging tech-based companies and small, existing manufacturers for the purpose of creating and retaining jobs in Pennsylvania. Contact the central office of Ben Franklin in University Park at (814) 863-4558 or click on [www.cnp.benfranklin.org](http://www.cnp.benfranklin.org)

