

One of the objectives of the Business Mastermind Pilot is to reduce the sense of isolation for entrepreneurs. How well was that objective met in the first session?	Why or why not?
Average: 4.17	
5	By giving us a safe place and a safe group to share ideas.
4	
4	We had similar issues and it was reassuring to hear from people and hear them be open about it.
4	I liked the format of the first meeting because it was structured but allowed the entrepreneurs to get to know each other.
5	It was helpful to get to know some other entrepreneurs and I feel like we were able to connect.
3	

The second objective of the Business Mastermind Pilot is to support individuals as they navigate business decisions and choose among competing values. How well was that objective met in the first session?	
Average: 3.67	Why or why not?
5	Same as before, by getting by giving us a safe environment to share ideas with people in a similar situation.
3	not enough prior context to be as helpful as it could be. Therefore, much of the advice to each other was more generic than desired.
2	This is harder given we don't have good understanding of each other's business. A deeper understanding might be needed in order to achieve this.
4	
4	We were able to get some good ideas and advice.
4	

<p>We know time is precious and that you have to be intentional about what you commit to. How valuable was the first session's experience in relation to the time commitment?</p>	
Average: 3.83	Why or why not?
5	I think my group is great and look forward to my next meet.
3	If I could split the session in half, the second half would be a 4 and the first half a 2. I am careful with my time, especially in the evenings because that is my family time. While dinner is useful for getting to know each other, I'd much rather get down to business.
4	I appreciated getting to know people and having Kari, Shane and Joel there. They added a lot to the group conversation.
4	
4	It was a good meeting and very helpful, but it definitely was a time commitment.
3	

What value do you find in building relationships with peers in a similar stage of entrepreneurship?	Describe the sources of value you got from the first session.
Average: 4.50	
5	By bouncing ideas off of one another.
4	It is helpful to get fresh, outside perspectives on situations I've been deeply entrenched in for years, especially from other local business owners.
5	Comradery, connections
5	Found out about some new businesses in Reno County. And glad to see I am not alone with the struggles of owning a small business.
5	Some ideas that I hadn't yet considered.
3	Basically everyone was a stranger to me when we met, so I feel like I barely started building relationship with the others in the room. I think it's valuable to share ideas with each other.

Overall, did you trust your group members to maintain confidentiality and hold to purpose?	Why or why not?
Average: 4.33	
5	I know most of them.
4	I don't really care about confidentiality in regards to what I shared about our business' situation, and I don't think that confidentiality was stressed much, but generally speaking, I would trust the others in the group. We got off topic a decent bit mostly on real estate tangents, but that was before the main instructions were given.
4	Overall yes. However, there is one individual that I didn't have high trust with during the experience.
4	
4	It's hard to say without knowing everyone very well yet.
5	

How helpful was it to have facilitators (Shane, Joel, and Kari) in the room?	Why or why not?
Average: 4.33	
5	They all do amazing jobs at keeping people focused.
3	It was very helpful for the initial session to set the tone and expectation for the experiment, but I don't think it's needed moving forward. Although, I would add the caveat that I would always prefer to surround myself with successful owners I can learn from.
5	It helped give us structure and purpose.
5	
5	It helped keep us on track.
3	

What else would have better prepared you for the first session? What else do you wish you would have known?

So far it seems perfect.

I would have loved to have a bio or introduction video from each person to better understand what they do, what their goals are, and where they are stuck. This could have really streamlined the process during the session.

The purpose and maybe that we needed to have a business problem to come with.

Maybe give the questions to think about before the first session. Since it takes time for me to process, I could have thought about ideas to help the group.

Maybe a little more information about the other participants. Just some background.

The only thing I could think of is I wish I would have had a bit of notice for the little slips of paper with questions on it. Partly because it usually takes me a little to think something through before I talk about it.

Would you have made any changes to the structure of the first session? (Background on pilot, Group Expectations, Introductions, Dinner & Conversation, Peer Consultation)

Not that I can tell.

Personally, I would get rid of the dinner, but I know that's probably just me. The introduction questions were great, but maybe those could be addressed prior to an initial session. As I mentioned earlier, only the second half of the session was actually productive towards attaining my business goals. The peer consultation was the real meat of the session, so I would have loved if that had been expanded, and perhaps room could be made for more back and forth feedback on each person's situation in an effort to generate more useful and practical solutions to walk away with.

No

I do not know if you could find out who has done KLC or Leadership Reno County because when we started the exercise, I knew what we were doing. Dinner made it nice to get to know each other better.

Maybe just some introductory info early on.

I think it was fine.

What are your expectations for the second session? What do you hope will be an outcome?

Better communication since we aren't introducing ourselves.

I hope to get right into it!

I would like to have some guiding questions from you all so we have purpose. I think without that, we won't have a productive conversation about business issues.

Keep on learning and building on the relationships.

Hopefully we get to know each other even better, and form a group that is willing to continue to speak and get together regularly.

Not really sure. Building relationships with other entrepreneurs I suppose.

Anything else we should know?
Nope
Your efforts are appreciated, and as a first-time experiment, I would generally consider it a success. The diversity of businesses and personalities is also valued.
During the beginning of the intent of this experiment, it was stated that the hope was for this group to live on past 2 meetings. Given I did not connect with one individual, it is lower likelihood I'm going to want to be a part of the group long term.