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Morgantown, WV Ranks #21 out of 383 as Best Place in the U.S. For Women Entrepreneurs to Launch their Business

Outranking other West Virginia areas including Beckley, WV

September 21, 2016, Fort Mill, S.C., GoodCall- The metro area of Morgantown was ranked #21 in a new report by data analysts from GoodCall.com as one of the [best places in the U.S. for women entrepreneurs to launch a business](#). The report was launched in light of American Business Women's Day (9/22), a nationally recognized holiday that honors American business women and women business owners across the country.

"Morgantown is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State of West Virginia and has one of the healthiest economies in the country. We are fortunate to have several successful women-owned businesses thanks to the strong support network throughout the area that encourages and supports women. The U.S. Small Business Administration recently awarded our community a new Women's Business Center that will offer one-on-one counseling, networking events, training workshops, technical assistance and mentoring to women entrepreneurs on various entrepreneurship topics. This center will further the already welcoming aspects of our community that make it a great place for business," says Jason Pizatella of the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce.

A total of 383 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were evaluated on their ability to provide networking opportunities, a welcoming business climate for women, a bustling economy and a great baseline for female education. Data sources included the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Survey of Business Owners to evaluate the networking potential (10% of the total score) and business climate (25%), and the bureau's 2014 American Community Survey to weigh differences in male and female educational attainment (30%).

"Morgantown won the #21 position, outpacing other West Virginia metros in the top 100, including Beckley, WV and Wheeling, WV," says GoodCall.com research analyst Claire Etheridge. "Several factors boosted Morgantown up in the rankings, including robust educational values for women, a thriving post-recession economy and, of course, a high density of female business owners. Taken together, those factors elevated it above many other places in the country."

Economic health information (35%) for the cities came from two sources - year-over-year change in an MSAs gross domestic product from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the current unemployment rate from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey's 5-year estimates.

The report also features comments from successful women entrepreneurs around the country revealing what they love about owning a business in their city and the resources they've called on for success.

Read the full report regarding Morgantown's ranking including methodology and data sources here: <https://www.goodcall.com/data-center/2016-best-places-women-entrepreneurs>

About GoodCall: The GoodCall research team analyzes official government data to develop reports that help students, recent graduates and financial consumers make decisions about their careers, college choices and

more. The [GoodCall Data Center](#) was born from the idea that in an increasingly complex online marketplace, consumers deserve access to the information they need to make educated financial decisions.

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