Business of Web Design: Creating a MI limited liability company

1. The Case for Entrepreneurship
   * Entrepreneurial nation
     + Jefferson
     + Edison
     + Jobs
     + Musk
     + Williams
   * Risk
     + College student risk tolerance will be lower than ever
     + Cost of living
     + No dependents
     + Well networked in your field
     + Flexible with travel and location
   * The Internet
     + Leveled the playing field and reduced the cost of startinga business
     + Digital business
     + Repository of information
     + SaaS applications have taken the place of most back office software packages
   * Job security is a myth
   * Freedom
2. Starting a Business in MI
   * Business Organizaion
     + Sole Proprietor
       - Just you and your skills
     + Partnership
       - Just you, a friend and your skills
     + Limited Liability Company (LLC)
       - You, possibly others, your skills and some liability protection
     + Corporation (C and S types)
       - You, your skills, shareholders and rules
   * Creating a MI LLC
     + Easy to start and dissolve
     + Works with individuals or partners
     + Some separation between business assets and personal assets
     + Qualifies for a Federal EIN
   * Articles of Organization
     + Michigan Form CD-700
     + LLC name is important, mind all uppercase and lowercase letters as well as commas
     + Print, sign and write a check. In 2-3 weeks you’ll be a real company as far as the State of Michigan is concerned.
   * Federal EIN
     + Employer Identification Number
     + This is like a SSN for your business
     + You need an EIN to pay federal and state taxes and to open a bank account
     + You can file a receive this online
   * Open a Bank Account
     + Use a credit union for free business checking accounts
     + They will want to see your FEIN and LLC articles of organization
     + Start with $100 (this is technically called an “owner equity investment”)
   * Register for Michigan Taxes
     + You may need to register for State of Michigan Taxes (sales, use, corporate income, etc)
     + Seek advice depending on your particular type of business
   * Register for Local Taxes
     + Keep in mind that you may need to register for local taxes
     + Always seek a tax professional advice if you have questions about what taxes you are required to pay
3. Maintain a Business in Michigan
   * Regular Tax Payments
     + You will have to pay taxes that are due on regular monthly, quarterly and yearly schedules
     + Try not to miss tax payments. Being in debt to the IRS can be a bad time
   * Insurance
     + You will need insurance
       - Health/dental/vision
       - General liability
       - Unemployment
       - Workers’ compensation
       - Errors and omissions
       - Industry-dependent insurance
   * Annual Report
     + This is an LLC renewal and must be filed every year
     + This is public record and is the primary form people can search for to see if a company is “in good standing” with the State
   * Hiring Employees
     + Out of the scope of presentation
     + Hire a qualified HR consultant to help you with the legal issues of hiring employees
     + All new hired must be reported to the State of MI via the New Hire Reporting system
   * Find Good Help
     + Business mentor
     + Accountant
     + Attorney
     + Tap people from your network