

MISSISSIPPI SBDC

WEEKLY STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

"Transforming Mississippi One Small Business at a Time"

March 2, 2011

As part of our commitment to provide you with information that may enhance the effectiveness of your important leadership efforts, we are pleased to deliver this report about our activities on behalf of Mississippi Small Business.

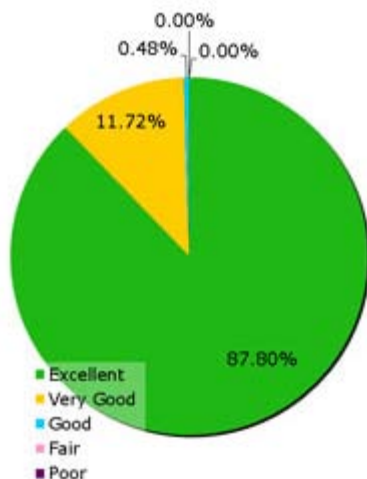
MSBDC Economic Impact Involvement

Since October 1, 2010

Counseled Clients	894
- Businesses Started	53
--- Jobs Created	211
--- Jobs Retained	225
- Loans Submitted	33
--- Loans Obtained	41

Total Capital Formation
\$19,156,047

Initial Client Satisfaction



Data compiled since October 1, 2010 Initial

Small Business Spotlight

Dobi's Ragin' Cajun



Pictured: Willis Melancon (left, owner) Sonny Fisher (right, counselor).

Dobi's Ragin' Cajun

4960 Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian, MS, 39567

(601) 282-5876

Willis Melancon, owner of Dobi's Ragin Cajun restaurant was assisted by counselors Doc Braswell and Sonny Fisher of MSU MSBDC. Assistance was focused on the areas related to the start-up phase through to the opening of the business.

Owner, Willis Melancon had the following to say regarding his experience with MSBDC services.

"Doc Braswell was a tremendous help when I began to formulate plans for my new business endeavor. He was very helpful when writing my business plan, assisting with my financials, and consulting in business model preparation. I cannot thank him enough for his assistance. He even followed up on me after our opening. Would recommend his assistance to anyone looking for information before starting a new business, and I have."

**Rating for the Year:
Since October 1, 2010**

87.80% Excellent
11.72% Very Good
0.48% Good
0.00% Fair
0.00% Poor

This week's client Evaluation of Services report includes data from **19 MSBDC Counseling Evaluation Forms with 13 comments by First Time Clients** after their initial counseling session.

**Mississippi Client
Evaluation of
Services**

To help the MSBDC improve our services and to better meet the needs of our clients, we ask them to complete the following questionnaire. These are the results of the questionnaires received between the dates of Feb 16-22.

Questionnaire Summary

Were you in business when you came to the MSBDC?

08 Yes

10 No

If yes, how long?

02 0 - 11.9 months

01 1 - 3 years

02 4 - 7 years

02 8 - 15 years

02 15+ years

Was your request for an appointment given prompt attention?

19 Yes

00 No

How long did you have to wait?

08 0 days

03 1 day

01 2 days

01 3 days

00 4 - 7 days

00 8+ days

- Willis Melancon

MSBDC wishes Willis Melancon and Dobi's Ragin' Cajun best of luck and much success.

Our Clients want our Stakeholders to know...

**All comments are direct quotes from first time clients.*

CLCC MSBDC

The information I received on start up of business was very informative. This information was real time and sensitive to my needs as a new bis owner.

--- Kenneth King, Copiah Co.

HCC MSBDC

Very knowledgeable and helpful. Definitely know which direction to go in now.

--- Scott Eastwood, Rankin Co.

Mr. Bennett was real helpful and enlightening to certain areas.

--- Shadrach Banks, Hinds Co.

Mr. Bennett is extremely knowledgeable and great to work with. I could have never done all of this on my own. Thank you for investing in my future. Thank you for all your time and knowledge.

--- Candice Ray, Rankin Co.

JSU

Very important and surprising session.

--- West Turnage, Yazoo Co.

Very knowledgeable and informative. Relates information well.

--- Victoria M. Walker, Hinds Co.

My experience at Mississippi SBDC was a great one. Very informative, my counselor took his time and answered all my questions.

--- Michael Williams, Hinds Co.

Very informative.

--- Earl D. Barnes, Copiah Co.

My experience went very well, and I learn a lot I didn't know.

--- Frank Collins, Lincoln Co.

I received excellent service and encouragement as to how the SBDC program can help us with our unique problems.

--- James E. Sharp, Winston Co.

Did your counselor give you specific recommendations?
☒ 19 Yes
☐ 00 No

Did your counselor have the skills needed to advise you or did the counselor make an appropriate referral?
☒ 19 Yes
☐ 00 No

Did the counselor give you enough time to express your business concerns?
☒ 19 Yes
☐ 00 No

Would you use the SBDC program again?
☒ 19 Yes
☐ 00 No

Would you recommend the SBDC services to others?
☒ 19 Yes
☐ 00 No

Please rate the business assistance services you received:
☒ 18 Excellent
☐ 01 Very Good
☐ 00 Good
☐ 00 Fair
☐ 00 Poor

[Find Training Events in your Area!](#)

[Find your local MSBDC counselor!](#)
[International Trade Questions?](#)
[Inventor Assistance Help](#)

We would like to recognize our host institutions!

[Copiah-Lincoln Community College](#)
[East Central Community College](#)
[Hinds Community College](#)
[Jackson State University](#)
[Jones County Junior College](#)
[Mississippi State University](#)
[The University of Mississippi](#)

MSU

I was well pleased with the information I received and look forward to coming back for information.

--- *Clint H. Burkes, Lauderdale.*

UM MSBDC

During our conversation we discussed different aspects of business that I feel will be helpful with future growth of our dealership.

--- *Judy A. Thornburg, Lafayette Co.*

This is an extremely useful professional service. It should be continued.

--- *John Young, Lafayette Co.*

Gulf Coast MSBDC

Very pleasant and knowledgeable.

--- *Joyce Bowens, Marshall Co.*

Mitch McDowell was extremely helpful. His knowledge base was endless. I'm pleased to have some one of his talent service the Gulf Coast region. He's a keeper.

--- *Margaret Hudson, Harrison Co.*

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.



The Mississippi Small Business Development Center Program (MSBDC) - headquartered at the University of Mississippi School of Business - provides free one-on-one, confidential counseling and training to Existing, Start-Up, and Pre-Venture small businesses. Extensive reports, comprehensive training resources, and valuable videos designed to help individuals pursue their entrepreneurial dreams are available to all Mississippians through the [MSBDC website.](#)

Contact a local counselor or register for a workshop via the MSBDC website www.mssbdc.org or call our toll free number (MS only. Area codes 662 601 and 228) 1-800-725-7232.

Thank You.

Mississippi Small Business Development Center's Weekly Stakeholder Update

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 1848
122 Jeanette Phillips Drive
University, MS 38677

Our telephone:
(662) 915-5001

Copyright (C) 2011 Mississippi Small Business Development Center. All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

Need a new client password? Please [click here](#) and we will email it to you.

This email was sent from %SENDEMAIL%. You have received this email because you have previously received counseling or

attended one of our workshops. If you do not want to receive promotional email from us any further, please [click here to unsubscribe](#).