

# MISSISSIPPI SBDC

## WEEKLY STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

*"Transforming Mississippi One Small Business at a Time"*

**September 14, 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.

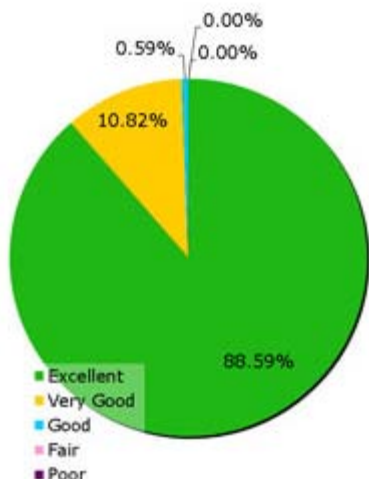
### MSBDC Economic Impact Involvement

Since October 1, 2010

Counseled Clients	1845
- Businesses Started	143
--- Jobs Created	569
--- Jobs Retained	650
- Loans Submitted	84
--- Loans Obtained	102

**Total Capital Formation**  
**\$47,509,565**

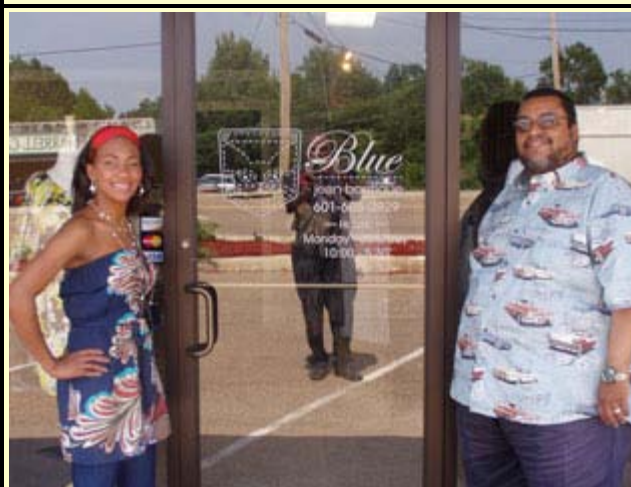
### Initial Client Satisfaction



Data compiled since October 1, 2010 Initial

### Small Business Spotlight

Blue Jean Boutique



*Pictured: Mrs. Cabrina Womack (left, owner) Henry Thomas (right, counselor).*

#### Blue Jean Boutique

**Owner: Mrs. Cabrina Womack**

**608 Hwy 51 Suite C Ridgeland, MS 39157**

**601-605-2929**

Mrs. Womack came to the MSBDC at JSU for assistance in opening a high end women's clothing store, the Blue Jean Boutique. She received counseling regarding her business from Henry Thomas, Director of the JSU MSBDC.

Together, they worked on a business plan and many other aspects of starting a business, unique to Mrs. Womack's needs.

Business owner, Cabrina Womack adds her comments to many who have appreciated Henry's assistance with their business.

"Mr. Thomas at Small Business Development Center at JSU assisted me with my business plan and answered the questions I had about starting my business. The MSBDC is a wonderful resource for small businesses and I would

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

88.59% Excellent  
10.82% Very Good  
0.59% Good  
0.00% Fair  
0.00% Poor

This week's client Evaluation of Services report includes data from **23 MSBDC Counseling Evaluation Forms with 21 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 August 31 - September 6.

**Questionnaire Summary**

Were you in business when you came to the MSBDC?

10 Yes  
13 No

If yes, how long?

04 0 - 11.9 months  
02 1 - 3 years  
03 4 - 7 years  
01 8 - 15 years  
00 15+ years

Was your request for an appointment given prompt attention?

23 Yes  
00 No

How long did you have to wait?

06 0 days  
07 1 day  
00 2 days  
02 3 days  
02 4 - 7 days  
00 8+ days

recommend anyone starting a business to utilize their services."

--- Mrs. Cabrina Womack

Mr. Henry Thomas has since accepted a teaching position at the Jackson State University College of Business, as a full time accounting faculty member. Mr. Thomas helped clients as a member of the MSBDC team for over 15 years and was a previous MSBDC State Star. He served on numerous boards, including the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance (MMBA) and the Jackson Greater Chamber Partnership. He will certainly be missed, and we wish him the best. For anyone who has previously communicated or worked with Mr. Thomas in his role as JSU Director, please contact Sydney Brown for your JSU SBDC needs at **(601) 979-2795**.

MSBDC wishes Mrs. Cabrina Womack and the Blue Jean Boutique best of luck and much success. The MSBDC will continue to be an available resource for your business throughout its development.

**Our Clients want our Stakeholders to know...**

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

**CLCC MSBDC**

Jeff was very helpful. He gave us a lot of info on different ways to help our business grow and to get the money we needed for new equipment. This is a great service to have in Mississippi.

--- Shawn Ward, Franklin Co.

My experience with MS SBDC was educating and I learn things I didn't know about my business plan and it will help me a lot. I had questions written down he answer all of them.

--- Zipporah Davis, Pike Co.

Mr. Jeff Waller was the person whom advised me with information on starting a small business. His information was explained in a way that I could understanding all the do's and don'ts. In starting a small business. When I came into his office I thought it was easy than I thought but after listening to Jeff I realized that if I do everything that is required I could start a small business. This information was explained in the professional manner that I have been looking for someone to do so that I could understand all the aspects in starting a small business. In learning the information made me believe that I can achieve what I came for. I thank Jeff for his time and patience that and look forward to continue to work with him, I will recommend other friends that have come to a point where they can no longer understand all what is

Did your counselor give you specific recommendations?

23 Yes

00 No

Did your counselor have the skills needed to advise you or did the counselor make an appropriate referral?

23 Yes

00 No

Did the counselor give you enough time to express your business concerns?

23 Yes

00 No

Would you use the SBDC program again?

23 Yes

00 No

Would you recommend the SBDC services to others?

23 Yes

00 No

Please rate the business assistance services you received:

23 Excellent

00 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](#)

needed in starting business. When I leave this office I know that that it was truly worth my time in coming.

--- *Wilma Hall, Claiborne Co.*

#### **HCC MSBDC**

I was provided the information I came here to learn. I plan on coming back &/or calling as other questions arise.

--- *Angela Morgan, Rankin Co.*

Counselor had a lot of great ideas. It was a pleasant to have an experienced counselor to speak with.

--- *Elissha Lewis, Madison Co.*

Excellent visit. Mr. Harper got me the info I needed to help me set up my corporation. Great service.

--- *Steve Ingram, Warren Co.*

Mr. Jim Harper was excellent in explaining the step that was needed, and very detailed with the answers needed to my question. He did a great job.

--- *Brittney Henderson, Rankin Co.*

Very informative and thought provoking.

--- *Martina D. Hillman, Hinds Co.*

I received good information â€” very helpful.

--- *Cindy Hall, Rankin Co.*

Mr. Bennett helped me with each and every details of my concerns.

--- *Asmita, Rankin Co.*

I'm the executive chef for Governor Hailey Barbour. With Mr. Bennett's help and advice I will now be able to successfully complete my business loans and have guidelines to plan my business.

--- *Matt Huffman, Rankin Co.*

Right off the bat my counselor gave me pertinent information concerning our business structure. I can't wait until my next meeting.

--- *Will Shirley, Hinds Co.*

#### **JCJC MSBDC**

Gary is awesome and very well rounded in every area. I will certainly recommend this service to others.

--- *Vickie Wilberding, Lamar Co.*

#### **JSU MSBDC**

We had a positive experience, and we learned a lot.

--- *Michael Moore, Madison Co.*

My experience at MSBDC was great. I learned a lot of things I didn't know about starting a business. My

The Mississippi Small Business Development Center Program (MSBDC) 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](http://www.mssbdc.org) or call our toll free number (MS only. Area codes 662 601 and 228)  
1-800-725-7232 .

counselor did an excellent job in advertising me and I'm forward to my next apt.

--- Hope Mallard, Hinds Co.

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#### **MSU MSBDC**

I had a very good information that will guide me in opening up my restaurant. This guidance is more than expected.

--- Juan A Corrigan, Oktibbeha Co.

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#### **UM MSBDC**

My visit with MSBDC was very informative. This needs to be the first stop for anyone wanting to start a small business.

--- Becky Null, Alcorn Co.

James was very detailed and knowledgeable in his assessment of my business capital need.

--- William Griffith, Bolivar Co.

Very helpful and informative. I learned a great deal about this aspect of being a business owner.

--- Michelle Griffith, Bolivar Co.

Excellent if it were not for programs like this people like me with no connections, no money would not know where to even start on our way to owning a business, much less being prepared at running one.

--- Devir Carter, Lafayette Co.

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#### **Gulf Coast MSBDC**

My visit to take the SBDC office was very helpful, and informative. I really think it was worth the time to visit and that it will help me.

--- Kay S. McLeod, George Co.

It was very informing she talked and showed me how to fill out necessary forms and went of how to write a business plan. --- Mrs. Connie was very polite and informative.

--- Ahmad J. Peters, Hancock Co.

I had a wonderful time Ms. Connie answered all my questions and I have a good idea of what I need to do. Thanks.

--- Zaneta Crain, Harrison Co.

Educational!!

--- Charles Scott, Harrison Co.

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*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.*

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Mississippi Small Business Development Center's Weekly Stakeholder Update

Our mailing address is:  
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**(662) 915-5001**

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