



July 24, 2012

MSCC Offering Free Business Startup/Expansion Classes

Mid-South Community College will host a series of free classes to assist local entrepreneurs in starting their own business or expanding an existing one to create additional employment opportunities in the region.

Operation JumpStart training will begin Monday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. at MSCC's Workforce Technology Center (Room 102) on the college's North Campus, 2000 West Broadway, West Memphis.

The 36-hour training program includes business concept development, market research and analysis, and pricing and financial projections. All classes are taught by certified instructors.

For additional information or to register, visit the Workforce Technology Center at the college, go online at www.midsouthcc.edu, or contact Pete Selden, MSCC Workforce Technology Program Specialist, at (870) 733-6019 or pjselden@midsouthcc.edu.

Mid-South received a \$19,950 grant to help local entrepreneurs build and grow businesses. The Delta Regional Authority and the Douglas C. Greene Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at Southeast Missouri State University announced the grant which is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration's PRIME program and the DRA.

The program objective is to increase the capacity for communities to train, support, and mentor aspiring entrepreneurs and to accelerate the number of new ventures created each year throughout the region. The cornerstone of the project is the nationally-recognized Operation JumpStart SM entrepreneurship development program offered by the CIE.

“Access to training and resources is crucial to developing successful small businesses and creating good-paying jobs for the people of the Delta region,” said Chris Masingill, the Federal Co-Chairman of the DRA. “This program is one in a series of initiatives we are supporting to accelerate entrepreneurship and continue building our economy of the future. We are excited to partner with Southeast Missouri State University on this phase of Accelerating Entrepreneurship in the Delta.”

Dr. Kyle Wagner, MSCC Vice President for Workforce Technology, said the grant aligns perfectly with what the college wants to accomplish.

“Mid-South Community College recognizes that the Arkansas Delta is in dire need of the creation of small businesses as the lifeblood for economic development,” Wagner said. “We are excited about this great opportunity to reach out to our community to assist with these efforts.”

MSCC is offering the entrepreneurial instruction for aspiring businessmen and businesswomen in eastern Arkansas and western Tennessee with a focus on Crittenden County, Ark., and Shelby County, Tenn.

The college plans to provide training for a minimum of 30 entrepreneurs with the expectation that 15 new small businesses will be created. The overall initiative, which encompasses colleges and business development organizations in Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, is expected to provide training and support to more than 300 aspiring entrepreneurs who are projected to establish as many as 100 new businesses.

For more information on Operation JumpStart training opportunities in West Memphis, call or email Selden at (870) 733-6019 or pjselden@midsouthcc.edu.