



**Dislocated Worker
Entrepreneurship
Program**

**Twin Districts
Workforce Area**

Mission Statement:

We Change Lives and Improve
Communities

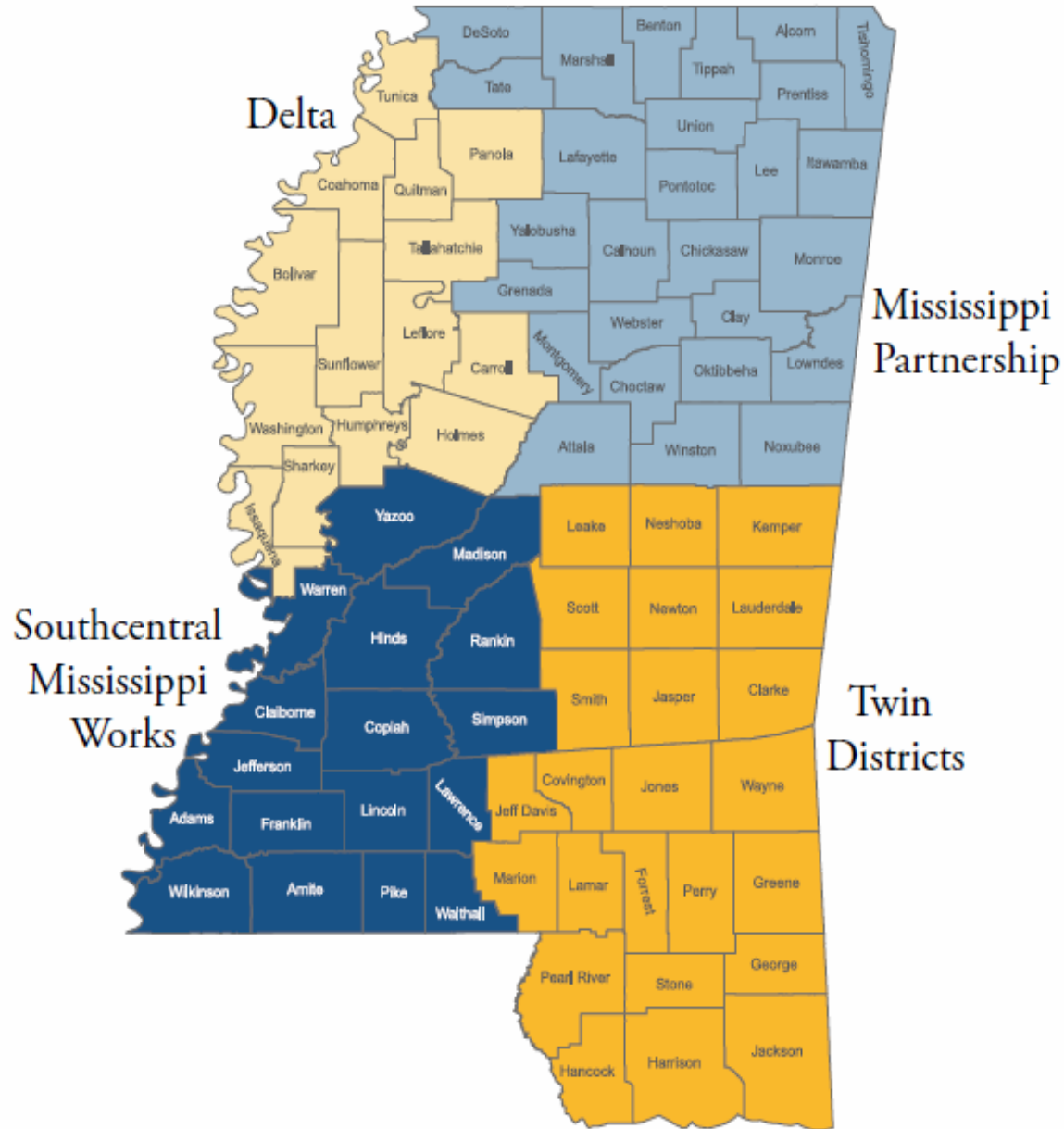


Demographics:

- o 24 county area with over 40 municipalities
- o Three different type labor markets/regions
- o 35,000+ people unemployed



Workforce Investment Act Areas



Project Partners:

- o Gaston Point Community Development Corp.
- o The University of Southern Mississippi
- o MS Department of Employment Security
- o SMPDD/Twin Districts Workforce Area
- o Small Business Administration
- o MS Enterprise for Technology
- o SCORE Association

Project Summary:

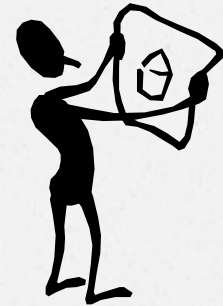
- o Create economic development & job creation
- o Selected Dislocated Workers due to.....
- o Thomas Friedman, “if you can’t find a job, invent one”
- o GPCDC created in ‘07 to address poverty
- o Recruitment thru American Job Centers
- o 12 weeks of classroom training at USM

Curriculum:

- o Introduction to Entrepreneurship
- o Communicating Effectively & Responsibly
- o Marketing & Selling
- o Building the Business & Managing for Success
- o Ethics and Social Responsibility
- o Negotiating, Self-Awareness, Teamwork
- o Networking and Technology

Program Highlights/ Sustainability:

- o Each DW created a Business Plan
- o Shark Tank Competition \$ prizes
- o City of Gulfport donated building, five year no cost lease “The Center for Entrepreneurship”



Success Story:

- o Iris Jackson, Shark Tank Winner
- o Opened two businesses: Made From Scratch Catering and Mobile Phone Provider Service
- o Completing college degree



President Sidney Rushing



Michele Fleming, Instructor



Class Graduation:

