Dislocated Worker Entrepreneurship Program

Twin Districts Workforce Area
Mission Statement:

We Change Lives and Improve Communities
Demographics:

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

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

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

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

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

- Iris Jackson, Shark Tank Winner
- Opened two businesses: Made From Scratch Catering and Mobile Phone Provider Service
- Completing college degree
President Sidney Rushing
Michele Fleming, Instructor
Class Graduation: