

EXCEL BY 5 IS ONE-OF-A-KIND

We at Excel By 5 Inc. are very excited that the Madison County Business League, Madison County Economic Development Authority and the United Way of the Capitol area have agreed to be the lead agencies as North Madison County comes



BOB CLAY, EXCEL BY 5

together to work toward becoming a Certified Early Childhood Community.

Launched in the fall of 2004, Excel By 5 is an innovative program designed to encourage and assist communities to become actively involved in supporting their young children. The first-of-its-kind in the United States, Excel By 5 is a collaborative model designed to help optimize existing resources while highlighting the important role communities play in educating their children during their most formative years — birth to five. Parents, educators, child care professionals, physicians, churches and social service organizations use the Excel By 5 model to form coalitions to achieve certification as an “early childhood” community based on specific Excel By 5 requirements.

Through the efforts of the lead agencies, several organizational meetings have been held to identify coalition members to drive this certification process as North Madison County works to prepare children for kindergarten and the 1st grade.

The Excel By 5 certification requirements are divided into four groups: Community Involvement; Family and Parent Support; Early Care and Education; and Health and vary according to community size and capacity. The certification process takes about two years to complete, and the certification is awarded for three years. If the community wants to maintain its Excel By 5 certification, it has to reapply in the third year and complete the criteria for recertification.

At present, there are twenty six Excel By 5 Candidate and Certified Communities. Candi-

date Communities are: Alligator, Belzoni, Beulah, Duncan, Gunnison, Hancock County, Hattiesburg, Hollandale, Isola, Lafayette County, Louise, McComb, Oktibbeha County, Pace, Rosedale, Shelby, Silver City and Stone County, MS. Communities that have fulfilled all the requirements to become Certified Excel By 5 Early Childhood Communities are: Petal, Pascagoula, West Point, Mid-Jackson, Monroe County, Moss Point, Cleveland and Biloxi.

Please visit www.excelby5.com for additional information. You may also contact Bob Clay at 601-707-7726.

Excel By 5 Coalition Members:

Superintendent Mike Kent

Madison County Schools

Superintendent Dwight Lockett

Canton Public Schools

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Ronnie McGehee

Madison County Schools

Mayor William Truly

City of Canton

Dr. Nancy New

New Summit Schools &
MS Community Education Center

Headmaster Curt McCain

Canton Academy

Reverend Michael K. Barth

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Wade Harris, Jr.

Nissan North America, Inc.

Dr. Mary Sims Johnson

Madison County Citizens Services Agency

Nicole Kemp

Levi Strauss & Company

Bobbie Killins

Retired Educator

Lauren McGraw

McGraw Gotta Go

Roylean Payton

Headstart

Betty Lou Pigg

Madison County Schools

Karen Robison

MadCaap

Charlotte Wilson

Madison County School teacher

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SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SERVICES

Mississippi's Small Business Development Centers provide a variety of services to thousands of small businesses in our state every year, including counseling, workshops and information services, at no cost to the public. The SBDC receives its funding from both the Federal and State governments and also from the community colleges and universities that host SBDC Centers.

At these centers resources are available to assist with: Business Plans, Market analysis, Access to capital sources, location identification, Federal grant information and other managerial and technical services. Specialized services include International Trade, Technology Transfer and Inventor Assistance with referrals to Government Contract Procurement Assistance. SBDC's partner with our Congress, the SBA, the Mississippi legislature and all the host institution who house our centers. Our partners make these investments because Mississippi's Small Business Development Centers are a proven, cost effective way to grow Mississippi's economy. Despite the current economic downturn, SBDC clients have created 3,244 new jobs and saved (retained) 4,552 jobs in the past three years. The SBDC has saved the State of Mississippi, during that three year period, \$19 million in unemployment compensation. In the year 2010, MSBDC clients recorded slightly more than \$836 million in sales

and SBDC's helped clients obtain over 150 new loans with capital formation exceeding \$64 million.

We serve veterans, minorities and women as part of our everyday activities. Our primary focus is to help existing business (those who have been in business three years or longer). We also work with Start-Ups (businesses that are less than three years old) and with Pre-Ventures, those being entrepreneurs who are thinking of starting a business. In the past year, we have held 4464 individual counseling sessions and have also conducted 304 training events. Our client satisfaction rating is 98.9, combining the categories of Excellent and Very Good. Every four years the MSBDC goes through a rigorous national accreditation process based on the Baldrige criteria.

Each week we publish a stakeholder newsletter and monthly we publish a client newsletter. Please e-mail MSBDC@olemiss.edu should you wish to receive these newsletters. For information regarding locations of offices throughout the state please visit our website: www.mssbdc.org.



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CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS - FALL 2011

MCBL is excited to announce plans for upcoming events to be held in the fall of 2011.

- The Business League will host our annual Fall Celebration reception. The VISIONS award will be presented as a means of recognizing and thanking a stand out Madison County business for their contributions to the community. By contributions we mean their unique or remarkable accomplishments, their investments in people and the resulting impact that their operations have on the local area economy.
- The MCEDA/MCBL large event planned for fall 2011 will be What's Technology got to do with Business Success in today's economy? What you need to know to stay competitive both professionally and personally!
- We will host our first in a series of Entrepreneurship Workshops in partnership with the MS Small Business Development Centers. This event is being planned by the Business League Entrepreneurship Committee and will focus on information needed by start-up and pre-venture companies in our community utilizing the expertise of Business League members.
- Business League members will continue to partner with MCEDA board members on special projects/standing committees (Healthcare/Wellness, Education, Government Relations, Entrepreneurship, Canton Community Development, Film Industry/Tourism, and Broadband).

Be on the lookout for more details which will be released at a later date.