

Young Entrepreneur Starts Thriving Machine Shop with Assistance from LSBDC

(Shreveport, LA) Ever since he took shop class at Minden High School, Brandon Hooper has been fascinated with machines. In high school, Hooper raced and built all-terrain vehicles, so it was natural transition for him to go into the machining business after he graduated. Brandon attended Louisiana Technical College-Northwest Louisiana Campus in Minden with the idea of one day owning his own machine shop.

But after working several years for someone else, this young entrepreneur and father decided to start his own machine shop, called Hooper's Machine and Weld Services, LLC, located at 8822 Highway 371 South in Sibley, Louisiana. Hooper turned to the LSBDC at Louisiana State University in Shreveport for assistance.

"Starting my own shop was a big risk. But it has really paid off. When I first started in January of 2007, I was a one-man operation. In just a year, I hired more people and made a major investment in new machinery and tools," said Hooper.

LSBDC at LSUS consultant Bob Boling helped Brandon develop his business plan and financial projections. Boling also guided Hooper through the process of setting up his own business, and provided marketing assistance.

"Bob really helped me to understand the realities of opening my own businesses and explained the pitfalls and challenges I would face. I couldn't have done it without Bob," said Hooper.

The LSBDC in Shreveport partners with Louisiana Economic Development, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Louisiana State University in Shreveport to provide one-on-one business consulting at no cost to the small business owner. The center also provides low-cost business training. These services are aimed at helping business owners and entrepreneurs start, grown, and expand their companies.

According to an independent ASBDC economic impact study for Louisiana, LSBDC clients experience a 25 percent increase in sales and an 11 percent increase in employment levels as compared to the average Louisiana business.

To contact the LSBDC at LSUS, call 318-797-5144 or email lsbdc.lsus@lsbdc.org.



Brandon Hooper, owner, Hooper's Machine & Weld Service, LLC

