



Louisiana Small Business Development Center at McNeese State University Burton Business Center, Lake Charles

Serving Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis parishes

Moss Bluff Mower Sales 459 North Hwy 171, Lake Charles, LA 70611



Patrick & Melissa Mele, owners, Moss Bluff Move Sales

Economic Impact

- 2 new jobs created
- 10% increase in sales in 2008
- acquired existing small business

Patrick and Melissa Mele collectively spent more than seven years working for the business they would eventually acquire thanks to assistance from the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at McNeese State University.

“We were already putting in 55 to 60 hours each working for someone else, so we were really ready to own our own business. When the opportunity came along for us to buy Moss Bluff Mowers Sales, we needed assistance with financing. Our LSBDC consultant, Kyle Ardoin was indispensable in helping us put together a business plan, financial projections, and a loan package. We’ve also attended numerous LSBDC seminars to sharpen our business skills,” said Melissa Mele, co-owner of Moss Bluff Mower Sales.

Moss Bluff Mower Sales is one of the largest mowers, mower parts and generator sales, and small engine repair business in the booming community of Moss Bluff outside of Lake Charles. Founded 25 years ago, Moss Bluff Mowers has grown from a small Mom & Pop shop to a 6800 square foot showroom and warehouse; and under the ownership the Meles, Moss Bluff Mowers continues to expand.

“It was a relief to own our business, because we could do things our way. Without Kyle’s help, we would not have had such a smooth transition from employees to employer. Despite all our years of industry experience, we didn’t have any idea about financing. Kyle was very comforting yet straight-forward. He supported us every step of the way. It’s great to have someone to rely on,” praised Melissa.

LSBDC at McNeese Services Given to Client

- developed a business plan
- assisted in preparation of loan package
- provided entrepreneurial training



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, and participating universities

