



## **SBA Mississippi Emerging Leaders Initiative**

The U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District Office is currently engaged in its Emerging Leaders program (an exceptional small businesses executive-level training series for exceptional small businesses to participate in) now available in 48 cities and communities across the country.

The initiative has trained more than 2,400 promising small business owners in underserved communities, and its impact continues to expand in helping small businesses to grow and create jobs throughout the country. In 2015, 22 new cities joined the initiative for the first time, which included Jackson, MS.

The Emerging Leaders Program has been a catalyst for expanding opportunities for underserved communities. Emerging Leader graduates have secured more than \$1 billion in government contracts and accessed \$73 million in new financing. Graduates also reported having created nearly 2,000 new full-time jobs since the program's inception. Sixty-two percent of surveyed participants reported an increase in revenue while 70 percent of those surveyed reported maintaining or creating new jobs in their communities. The initiative graduated nearly 400 small business owners in 2014, representing the largest graduating class since it began in 2008 (formerly known as E-200).

The seven month executive intensive entrepreneurship education series includes approximately 100 hours of classroom time per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops and develop connections with their peers, city leaders and financial communities.

Local recruitment for the training typically starts in January each year, but those interested may contact their respective SBA district office. Classes begin in April and conclude in October.

For more information about eligibility criteria, etc. contact the U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District Office at (601) 965-4378 or visit [www.sba.gov/emergingleaders](http://www.sba.gov/emergingleaders).