Success Story: SBDC helps histology firm go beyond concept

Maureen Doran was not quite ready to give up her career interests when she retired as director of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Histology Center. So Doran, who has more than three decades histology experience, collaborated with Deborah Jung, a former business manager of the SIU School of Medicine’s physiology department, to create their own business.

Saffron Scientific Histology Services launched in August (2014) and the Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIU has been instrumental in enabling them to turn a concept into a viable business. Doran and Jung, along with Elizabeth Dawn Grisley, a graduate student in molecular, cellular and systemic physiology, found a location and wet lab for the business in the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center.

“We have a great facility and we love it. We love it here at Dunn-Richmond. It’s an amazing group of people and an amazing facility. Our SBDC counselors have been really helpful in getting our business together.”

Researchers and medical professionals investigate disease processes and evaluate drugs and products using histology, which is the study of tissues. Saffron makes microscope slides used for research and diagnostic services. The company’s clientele includes researchers, veterinarians, physicians and others involved in research or medical fields.

They found the startup assistance they needed at the SBDC, getting help with their business plan, financial projections, incorporation, other relevant applications and website. Most importantly, they say the SBDC helped them secure lab space that is cost efficient and well-suited to their business needs.

—excerpt from University Communications and Marketing at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

For more information the SBDC can help YOU turn your dream into a reality, call 618/536-2424, email sbdc@siu.edu or visit us online at sbdc.siu.edu.

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