



**CLEVELAND**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SUCCESS**  
STORY

**CCC Small Business Center Success**  
**Hannah Newton**  
**Hannah's Coffee House**

Hannah Newton says she began her journey to own a coffee shop as a child. Originally from out west in Washington State, she says it was a part of her culture growing up. "Some of my first memories were of my mom making us cappuccinos. I've always enjoyed the culture and loved going to different coffee shops and even when I am out of town, I always look for the best local coffee house I can find. It is a way of life for me," she adds.

When she moved to Cleveland County, Newton says it took her almost a year to find the only coffee shop around. "Once I found it, I quickly got a job there and began learning everything I could about the business and even managing the shop. After the shop closed, the opportunity to own my own coffee shop became a possibility and now here I am as a small business owner; it all happened so quickly and is so surreal," Newton adds.

During the start-up phase of owning her business, Newton says she immediately got in touch with Bee Strain, Director of Entrepreneur and Small Business Development at Cleveland Community College. "Bee was so helpful in providing me with so much information. Everything from small business loan opportunities to networking opportunities through the Cleveland County Chamber.

Newton says that during the process of starting up her business, she encountered what could have become a setback. "I received notice that a coffee shop in Wisconsin was in the process of trademarking the Copper Rock name. I knew that changing the name of my business might send out a negative message to the community and to my loyal customers so I really needed Bee's advice on how to change the name and still keep folks coming back to the place they were used to," she adds.

"I immediately set up another appointment with Bee and we discussed various ways to make this a positive change for my business. Regardless of a name change, I wanted the shop to still be the same place the community comes to meet, enjoy great beverages and delicious pastries. Bee was able to provide me with marketing contacts who work with small companies as a courtesy to the Small Business Center," Newton says.

Newton choose to call the new shop, *Hannah's Coffee House* and she says working with the Small Business Center has been beyond helpful in making transition as seamless as possible from a business perspective. "I am very thankful to have Bee Strain and the Small Business Center on my side. Having this resource and community support has been a big blessing in my life and for my business. I would recommend them to anyone who has start up questions or is looking for business advice," Newton says. "Bee Strain and The Small Business Center truly go above and beyond to help businesses succeed. Again, I can't express just how thankful I am to have them in Cleveland County."

