

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
August 6, 2009

SUBJECT: State of Florida Center: Small Business Development Center Network

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the Small Business Development Center Network hosted at UWF as a State of Florida Center.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 10.015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

State of Florida institutes and centers are established to coordinate inter-institutional research, service, and teaching across the State University System. State of Florida institutes and centers' operational budgets reside within the bases of their host institutions. However, unlike university institutes and centers, State of Florida institutes and centers have a process whereby they may request additional funding as a System issue in the Board of Governors' legislative budget request. Such additional budget requests must be reviewed by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, and only those with a positive recommendation are carried forward to the Board of Governors for consideration.

The Florida Small Business Development Center Network was implemented in 1990 and existed as a Type I center until 2008 when that designation was abandoned. The Network consists of 34 Small Business Development Centers, including centers at seven universities (University of West Florida, Florida A&M University, University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida Gulf Coast University), nine institutions in the Florida College System, chambers of commerce, and economic development organizations. These centers assist entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout Florida in creating jobs, securing government contracts, acquiring capital formation, and increasing sales.

As required by BOG Regulation, the proposal for State of Florida status was approved by the University of West Florida Board of Trustees on January 30, 2009 and has been reviewed by the SUS Council of Academic Vice Presidents.

Supporting Documentation Included: Small Business Development Center Network Executive Summary (With SPASOC Agenda)