

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Legislative Budget Request for the Florida Small Business Development Center Network

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of a Legislative Budget Request to expand capacity in the Florida Small Business Development Center Network for the creation, retention and expansion of Florida's small businesses, economy, and jobs

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of West Florida is requesting \$4 million in recurring state appropriations to expand and enhance development programs Small Business Development Center help small and medium-sized businesses advance the state's economy. The SBDC, a State University System State of Florida Center, network is the principal business assistance organization for small businesses in the state. It provides business development consulting and access to educational programs to support businesses through all stages of the business development life cycle. In addition, it offers access to business intelligence by providing no-cost critical support services that address the specific needs of small- and medium-sized businesses. Appropriations will be used to expand program services and access additional grant and research funding.

The appropriations would be used to (1) expand service capacity, (2) create a Florida business information center, and (3) investigate opportunities to fill market gaps.

Eight State University System institutions – University of West Florida (lead), Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, and the University of South Florida currently participate in the Small Business Development Center network.

Dr. Cheryl Kirby, Chief Strategy and Branding Officer and Associate State Director for the Florida Small Business Development Center Network, will provide a brief overview of the request.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Legislative Budget Request Forms I and II

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Cheryl Kirby