

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 21, 2016**

SUBJECT: Florida Small Business Development Center Network Legislative Budget Request

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information and consideration of a proposal to expand capacity in the Florida Small Business Development (SBDC) Network for the creation, retention and expansion of Florida's Small Businesses

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 services that help small and medium-sized businesses advance the state's economy. The SBDC 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 professional business consulting to small and medium size enterprises delivered by certified professional business consultants.

The appropriations would be used to (1) enhance participation in the SBDC network, (2) establish a Florida business information center, and (3) investigate opportunities to fill market gaps in the Florida SBDC network.

Seven SUS institutions - UWF (lead), FAMU, FGCU, FIU, UCF, UNF, and USF as well as three state colleges are currently participating in the SBDC network.

Supporting Documentation Included: Legislative Budget Request Forms I & II

Facilitators/Presenters: Mr. Mike Myhre