

Helping Businesses Start, Grow and Succeed

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kellie Snaith, Marketing Director, SBDC at UCF, 407.420.4850 or ksnaith@bus.ucf.edu

SBDC at UCF Recognized for Performance Excellence

Orlando, FL – Wednesday, July 21, 2010. The Small Business Development Center at the University of Central Florida (SBDC at UCF) was recognized for outstanding performance in support of small businesses by the Florida Small Business Development Center Network (FSBDCN). The SBDC at UCF, led by Regional Director Eunice Choi, received five awards at the FSBDCN's Annual Professional Development Conference held at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort and Spa on June 16, 2010. The awards were presented by FSBDCN State Director Jerry Cartwright and the 11 SBDC regional directors during a formal awards ceremony attended by more than 150 FSBDCN staff members, resource partners and conference attendees.

"I continue to be impressed by the hard work and dedication of the staff, volunteers and clients of the SBDC at UCF. Congratulations to all the 2010 award winners. They have done an outstanding job," said Thomas L. Keon, dean of the UCF College of Business Administration.

The SBDC at UCF 2010 Performance Excellence Awards:



Florida Star of the Year: Jill Kaufman, nominated by the SBDC at the UCF, was recognized as the Florida SBDC Network employee whose contributions to the SBDC program were exemplary with respect to new program development, innovative special projects, client impact and overall Network performance. In her four years of service to the Network, Kaufman, Program Manager of the SBDC at UCF's Advisory Board Council Program, has helped her clients create 207 jobs, retain 454 jobs, increase sales by \$36.5 million, obtain \$9.5 million in capital formation and win \$30.6 million in contracts. Kaufman will also be recognized as the Association of SBDC's State Star for Florida at a special event during the National Association of SBDCs 30th Anniversary Conference scheduled for September in San Antonio, Texas.



Florida Volunteer of the Year Award – Gary Slavin, nominated by the SBDC at UCF in Orlando, was recognized as the regional volunteer that made the greatest contribution to the Florida SBDC Network. Slavin began working with SBDC at UCF clients in November 1995—his first client still contacts him for business advice. Slavin jumped at the opportunity to volunteer with the SBDC at UCF's Advisory Board Council and attended the program's inaugural reception in 2003, where he signed up to become a volunteer advisor. Since that time, Slavin has served on five advisory boards for the SBDC at UCF/Orange County program. In 2009, he also became a volunteer for the SBDC at Seminole State College's Advisory Board Council and currently serves on one board for that program. Slavin also received the **Regional Volunteer of the Year Award** for Central Florida.



Regional Certified Business Analyst (CBA) of the Year Award – Doris Bernal, manager and certified business analyst for the SBDC at UCF’s sub-center at Daytona State College, was recognized for demonstrating the greatest enhancement of scope, quality and/or impact of counseling services. Bernal is an expert in international business and export consulting and a former bank manager. In 2009, Bernal assisted her small business clients with \$6.2 million in capital formation, 131 jobs created or retained, 12 business starts and \$695k increase in sales.



Regional Employee of the Year Award – Nilda Perez, program assistant for the SBDC at UCF’s sub-center in Kissimmee, was recognized for the greatest contribution to the operations or special projects for the region. Perez has served the SBDC at UCF-Kissimmee for the past three and half years, providing administrative and operational support to the area manager, coordinating events, and promoting SBDC services to the Hispanic community within Osceola County.

###

With its main office in the Disney Entrepreneur Center in Downtown Orlando, the SBDC at UCF is part of the UCF College of Business Administration and the Florida Small Business Development Center Network, providing business seminars and free one-on-one business consultation to small business owners. The SBDC at UCF serves an eight-county area that includes Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia counties and maintains six satellite service centers. In 2009, the SBDC at UCF helped entrepreneurs create or retain 1,627 jobs, win contract awards worth \$31.4 million, acquire \$14.8 million in capital formation, and increase sales by \$31.7 million. The SBDC at UCF is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

SBDC at UCF | 315 East Robinson Street, Suite 100 | Orlando, FL 32801 | p 407.420.4850 | f 407.420.4862
sbdc@bus.ucf.edu | www.sbdcorlando.com

State Designated as Florida’s Principal Provider of Small Business Assistance