

*Helping Businesses Start, Grow and Succeed*

# Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SBDC at UCF's Growth Acceleration Program Aims to Create and Retain Jobs in Central Florida**

**Orlando, FL.** – The Small Business Development Center at University of Central Florida (SBDC at UCF) is launching a new program, the Growth Acceleration Program (GAP), for small businesses as part of a \$2.6 million grant received by the Florida SBDC Network (FSBDN). The program targets small to medium enterprises (SMEs) with the main objective of supporting the creation and retention of jobs for Central Floridians by providing individualized, professional consultant services to growing businesses.

Specifically, the SBDC at UCF GAP consultants will help develop sustainable growth strategies for SMEs, including strategic plan development, assessing and accessing capital, determining market diversification tactics and shoring up financial practices and financial institutional relationships. Qualifications for GAP include: goal of growth; in operation for at least three years; annual revenues of \$500k to \$10 million; and five or more employees.

“Small businesses are critical to our economy and this program will help create and retain jobs. I am confident that the staff at our Small Business Development Center will be instrumental in providing resources to assist clients and help them to prosper. This grant will have an impact on Central Florida and beyond,” said Thomas L. Keon, dean of the UCF College of Business Administration.

The SBDC at UCF's GAP is a FSBDN state-wide initiative from which the funding came as a key provision of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, which provided \$50 million in grants to Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) across the country. The FSBDN is a partnership program funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration and local and regional host partners, including Florida's state universities and colleges.

For more information about the SBDC at UCF GAP Program, contact SBDC at UCF Regional Director Eunice Choi at 407-420-4850 or [echoi@bus.ucf.edu](mailto:echoi@bus.ucf.edu)

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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 five satellite service centers. In 2010, the SBDC at UCF helped entrepreneurs create or retain 1,241 jobs, win contract awards worth \$38.3 million, acquire \$20 million in capital formation, and increase sales by \$18.4 million. The SBDC at UCF is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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