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## **SBDC at UCF Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Economic Outlook for Small Businesses with Top Economist Sean Snaith**

**Orlando, FL-** The Small Business Development Center at UCF (SBDC at UCF) is hosting a presentation entitled **“Economic Outlook for Small Business” with top forecaster Sean Snaith, Ph.D. on Thursday, January 28, 2010**, 9 to 10:30 am, at the SBDC at UCF, located at the Disney Entrepreneur Center, 315 East Robinson Street, Suite 100, downtown Orlando. The registration fee is \$10 per person and includes a continental breakfast. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

This third annual SBDC event provides Central Florida small business owners with the opportunity to hear from one of the nation’s top forecasters and address economic concerns facing the small business community. The event will feature keynote speaker Sean Snaith, Ph.D., economist and director of the Institute for Economic Competitiveness with UCF’s College of Business Administration. Snaith, who was named one of the most accurate forecasters in the nation by Bloomberg News, will present an economic outlook and discuss how the economic conditions are affecting the region and state, as well as examine the real estate market and employment outlook. Snaith’s presentation will be followed by a panel discuss with area experts who will share their thoughts on the economy, the banking and financing climate in Florida including the impact on small business. Panel members include: Tom Gallman, Senior Area Manager, U.S. SBA; Chris Hurn, CEO/Co-Founder, Mercantile Capital Corporation; and Donald McGowan, President/CEO, BankFirst.

The event is sponsored by Orange County Government and is part of the SBDC at UCF’s “Strategic Seminar Series”. To register or for more information regarding the Economic Outlook for Small Business event and the SBDC at UCF, visit [www.sbdcorlando.com](http://www.sbdcorlando.com) or call 407.420.4850.

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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 six satellite service centers. In the last year, the SBDC at UCF helped entrepreneurs create or retain 2,766 jobs, win contract awards worth \$51 million, acquire \$23.7 million in capital formation, and increase sales by \$43.6 million. The SBDC at UCF is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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