



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the idea of the “American Dream” is firmly rooted in our country’s history - a core belief we uphold that each individual has the right and freedom to seek prosperity and happiness and the idea that anyone can achieve success - regardless of circumstances - with the right combination of grit, hard work, and determination; and

WHEREAS, for entrepreneurs, it’s the notion of taking the idea that no one thought was possible and making that dream a reality and where the American Dream is strong in Florida where our state’s more than 2.8 million small businesses employ the majority of Floridians and serve as the engine of our economy; and

WHEREAS, Florida recognizes the integral role our state’s small businesses play and the need for programs and resources to support their growth; and

WHEREAS, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) - the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) ’s largest business assistance program - are a proven force in helping small businesses grow and succeed; and

WHEREAS, on average, SBDC clients nationally achieve greater job and sales growth than the average U.S. business and the Florida SBDC Network serves as the state’s principal provider of small business assistance; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Florida SBDC Network delivered more than 162,500 hours of consulting to more than 24,000 small businesses -- resulting in more than 38,000 jobs created and retained, \$7.4 billion in sales generated, \$488.1 million in government contracts awarded, and an estimated GRP impact on our state’s economy of more than \$3.9 billion; and

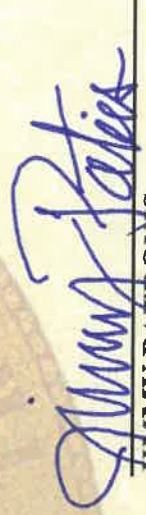
WHEREAS, March 16, 2022 marks the sixth annual National SBDC Day, a celebration to raise awareness about the success and impact of our country’s nearly 1,000 SBDC centers and our work to help more than a million small business owners nationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal of the State of Florida does hereby recognize March 16th, 2022 as

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER DAY

and encourage all citizens to support small businesses in their communities and thank the Florida SBDC Network for its service and impact on our state.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida has hereunto subscribed his name on the 16th day of March 2022.



JIMMY PATRONIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL