

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, founded in 1976, the **Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)** were established to utilize the resources of higher education, government and the private sector to support the development of small businesses, well-known to be the engine of economic growth in our communities, our nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, hosted by leading universities, colleges and state economic development agencies, the nearly 1,000 SBDCs provide no-cost business consulting and low-cost training through funding in part by the United States Congress in partnership with the United States Small Business Administration, and currently, a new business is opened by an SBDC in-depth client every 33 minutes, creating a new job in our nation approximately every five minutes; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are approximately 28.8 million small businesses in the United States that generate 63 percent of net new jobs created over the past two decades, and the mission of SBDCs nationwide is to assist new entrepreneurs realize the dream of business ownership and support existing businesses in remaining competitive in the complex global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, locally the *Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of South Florida* (USF), part of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network, is committed to its motto “*Building Tampa Bay’s Regional Economy One Business at a Time*” and its efforts in 2016 provided over 16,000 consulting hours to more than 1,600 small business entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, for over three decades, the SBDC at USF has created a better Florida by helping businesses grow and is dedicated to its mission of providing businesses the expertise and resources to succeed through a firm commitment to its customers, employees, partners and funders, and its dedication through the years has contributed to the Tampa Bay area becoming a nationwide leader in job creation and small business growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 22, 2017 as

“SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to support small businesses in Tampa neighborhoods and across the nation, and thank the Small Business Development Center at USF for its impact on the economic success of our region.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of March, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor