

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)** 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 communities across our nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, hosted by leading universities, colleges and state economic development agencies, the nearly 1,000 Small Business Development Centers provide no-cost business consulting and low-cost training through funding in part by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), and its mission 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, nationally, clients of the SBDC experience job growth nearly ten times greater than that for average businesses, and according to the SBA, there are approximately 2.5 million small businesses in Florida that employ nearly 50 percent of the state's private sector workforce; and

WHEREAS, locally, the *Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of South Florida* (Florida SBDC at USF), founded in 1976, is part of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network, and is committed to its mission of providing businesses the expertise and resources to succeed through its commitment to its customers, employers, partners, and funders, and its efforts for over four decades has substantially contributed to the Tampa Bay region's economic success, and has become a state leader in job creation and small business growth; and

WHEREAS, held annually in March, **National Small Business Development Centers Day** was established to bring awareness about the success of the SBDC and its impact on the United States' economic development, and the services provided to the small business community; and

WHEREAS, the Florida SBDC at USF will celebrate the 4th Annual Small Business Development Centers Day on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with a *Meet the Small Business Experts* event at the Tampa, Florida office of The Honorable Susan Valdez, Florida House Representative for District 62.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 18, 2020 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 Florida Small Business Development Center at USF for its impact on the economic success of our region.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6th day of March, 2020.





Mayor