



AMERICA'S SBDC FLORIDA Hosted by **USF Muma**
College of Business

Florida SBDC at USF Attends the 2026 Small Business Success Summit

SBDCTampaBay.com

- Networking Opportunities
- Breakout Sessions
- SBDC Team Celebration

Florida SBDC at USF Shines at Statewide Event

The **Florida SBDC at USF** team recently had the privilege of participating in the 2026 Small Business Success Summit and the Annual Florida SBDC Professional Development Conference, where consultants and professionals from across the state came together to celebrate achievements, share best practices, and strengthen their commitment to helping Florida's small businesses thrive. During the conference, the team participated in the SBDC Network's Performance Excellence Awards where a few team members were recognized.



Florida Rising Star of the Year Recognition

Randy Hayes was honored with the **Rising Star of the Year Award**. This award recognizes employees with fewer than five years of service who have made a difference in their region. Hayes was recognized for his exceptional contributions to small business growth, leading the state in new business starts and capital transactions while consistently delivering strong client service and results.

Lifetime Achievement Recognition

Several members of our team received Lifetime Achievement Awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Florida's small business community.



Capital Access Lifetime Achievement Awardees:

Bill Burnham, Florida SBDC at USF - \$75M +
Brad Owens, Florida SBDC at USF - \$50M +

New Business Starts Lifetime Achievement Awardees:

Bill Burnham, Florida SBDC at USF - 125 +
Randy Hayes, Florida SBDC at USF - 125 +
Kurt Forster, Florida SBDC at PCED - 75 +
Debra Schweikowsky, Florida SBDC at PCED - 75 +

Years of Service

The conference also provided an opportunity to recognize team members who have dedicated years of service to the Florida SBDC Network including:

Yanina Rosario, 15 Years
Bill Burnham, 10 Years

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Florida SBDC Events

FLORIDACOMMERCE



September 2, 2026

Florida's Rural Business Resource Tour

REGISTER NOW → FLORIDASBDC.ORG/RURALTOUR



[Register Here](#)

In-Person Event

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO START A BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 | 5:30PM-6:30PM

UNITED WAY NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER
8412 N 12TH ST, TAMPA, FL 33604

Got a business idea? Learn how to turn it into reality! Join our What You Need to Know to Start a Business class to explore feasibility, legal structures, necessary licenses, and more. Get the essential insights and tools to kickstart your business journey with confidence.

Register Today:
shorturl.at/RdjGy

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David Vargas, Florida SBDC at USF | Business Consultant



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UNITED WAY
Suncoast

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GOVCON NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Access to Capital for Government Contracting

Access to capital is a critical factor in helping government contractors successfully compete, perform, and grow. Join us for a panel that will bring together capital experts to discuss practical funding solutions available to government contracting businesses at every stage of growth.

Panelists, including representatives from Suncoast Credit Union, Brickell Capital, and Warren Averett, will share insights on traditional lending, SBA-backed financing, lines of credit, working capital solutions, contract financing, and strategies for managing cash flow during the government contracting lifecycle. The discussion will also address common challenges contractors face when seeking financing, how to become capital-ready, and what lenders look for when evaluating GovCon businesses.

September 10, 2026 | 7:30-9am

**3814 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa, FL
(USF Research Park - First Floor Classroom)**

Sponsored by:
Suncoast Credit Union, USF Research
Foundation, and Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

**Register today at
bit.ly/GovCon_Capital**

Register Here

In-Person Event

SHOW ME THE MONEY: FINANCING YOUR BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 | 5:30PM-6:30PM

UNITED WAY NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER
8412 N 12TH ST, TAMPA, FL 33604

Are you looking for money for your business? Are you considering a SBA loan? This seminar will help you zero in on the right funding choices for your business and avoid money scams. Our financing veteran will educate you on how to ask for a loan, get prepared for the bank and where to find money in a tight-fisted economy.

Register Today:
shorturl.at/gAYA8

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In-Person Event

BUILDING THE ULTIMATE BUSINESS PLAN

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | 5:30PM-6:30PM

UNITED WAY NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER
8412 N 12TH ST, TAMPA, FL 33604

Plan Big, Grow Bigger - Learn the Secrets to a Winning Business Plan! Business planning is the foundation to starting a new venture, raising funds, or growing your existing business. It serves as an important roadmap for your business. Receive the basic tools necessary to complete a practical business plan in this seminar, including how to conduct the research necessary to make decisions and develop financial.

Register Today:
shorturl.at/2CCjn

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David Vargas, Florida SBDC at USF | Business Consultant



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No-Cost Webinar

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO START A BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
10AM - 11AM

Register Today at:
shorturl.at/WmiPf

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RANDY HAYES
FLORIDA SBDC AT USF
Business consultant

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No-Cost Webinar

DRIVING MANUFACTURING PERFORMANCE THROUGH DAILY VISUAL MANAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
10AM - 11AM

Register Today at:
shorturl.at/M1a5x



MATTHEW MCINTYRE
FLORIDA SBDC AT USF
Business consultant

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Featured Business:
**Family-Owned Business Brings Wellness to the
American Workplace**



Learn more about **BN Star Wellness** [on our website.](#)

Additional Training Opportunities

To see additional details or register for an upcoming training event, click on the name of the event. Training could be virtual or face-to-face.

See more at [**SBDCTampaBay.com**](https://www.sbdctampabay.com).



PCED.ORG

[Construction Bonding](#) | Sept 1 | 12pm

[Can Your Business Withstand a Crisis?](#) | Sept 8 | 12pm

[CyberSecurity Compliance Made Simple](#) | Sept 15 | 12pm

[Intro to Digital Marketing](#) | Sept 22 | 12pm

[Crafting the Perfect Capabilities Statement](#) | Sept 29 | 12pm



Hillsborough County Florida

[Starting Your Business](#) | Sept 1 | 10am
[Financing and Banking](#) | Sept 17 | 10am

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State Designated as Florida's Principal Provider of Business Assistance [§ 288.001, Fla. Stat.]

The Florida SBDC at the University of South Florida is a member of the Florida SBDC Network, a statewide partnership program nationally accredited by the Association of America's SBDCs and funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Department of War, State of Florida, and other private and public partners, with the University of West Florida serving as the network's headquarters. Full funding disclosure available at www.floridasbdc.org/funding-disclosures/. Florida SBDC services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for individuals with limited English proficiency. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and/or limited English proficiency will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. To request accommodation or language assistance, please contact our team at 813.396.2700.

Florida SBDC at USF | 813.396.2700

USF CONNECT | 3802 Spectrum Blvd., Suite 201 Tampa, FL 33612 | SBDCTampaBay.com



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