



2016-2017 Board of Directors



Mike Myhre
Board Chairman
State Director, Florida

Michael Myhre is the CEO and Network State Director of the Florida SBDC Network, based in the State Office, located at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. Prior to this position, Michael was State Director for the Office of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, responsible for entrepreneurial and small business policy development and support services.

Throughout his career, he has held various positions in the field of small business assistance, development and education. In all that he does, Michael operates from his most basic core value, success through integrity. This value was formed as he matriculated at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Michael is also a certified public accountant (inactive/unlicensed).



Janice Washington
Vice Chair
State Director, Arizona

Janice C. Washington serves as State Director of the Arizona Small Business Development Center Network (AZSBDC). In addition to her work with the AZSBDC, Washington's background features more than 30 years of broad-based business experience working with large corporations and small businesses. A successful entrepreneur in her own right, Washington was Principal of her own accounting and financial consulting firm for more than 21 years.

Prior to starting her own firm, Washington held various analytical, administrative and management positions at Honeywell Information Systems and Intel Corporation, in addition to teaching as an adjunct professor at Western International University. Washington holds an MBA from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Jackson State University. She has been an active leader on numerous community, state and municipal boards and commissions. Washington represents Arizona at the national level as a Board Member of America's SBDC and is a respected leader throughout Arizona.



Terry Chambers
Board Secretary
Associate State Director,
Washington

Terry Chambers is Associate State Director of statewide programs in the Washington State SBDC network. His responsibilities include International Trade, Technology, the Intern Research Program, Client Training programs, and membership in the certification and professional development committee for the network. He re-joined the SBDC as a Certified Business Advisor and Center Manager in 2005, after being gone for nearly 13 years while he started two companies and was a partner in a venture capital firm. In 2008, he moved to the Lead Office executive team. In 2009, and again in 2014, he took on the additional role of Interim ASD totaling over two years in that position.

Terry has worked extensively in technology commercialization in high-tech product and program management, taking several products to market. He has managed a sales support division, international field service department and other engineering and operations departments. He has also been a venture capitalist, owned an import/export business and a small manufacturing business, and he had two restaurants early in his career. He has taught at the university level and instructed small business workshops and seminars for over 15 years. Terry holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Boise State University. He is also a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional, with multiple other certifications including instruction facilitation for Franklin Covey and Profit Mastery.



Greg Panichello
Treasurer
State Director, Kansas

Greg Panichello is the State Director for the Kansas SBDC. He brings to the SBDC specialty expertise in data management, process improvement, and strategic planning. He stays up-to-date on the latest technology to hit the open market. To some, he's a real "data nerd."

Greg has 11 years' experience administering statewide SBDC programs -- seven years in Utah and four years in Kansas. Prior to being the Utah SBDC State Director, he spent five years as the regional center director at the Seaside, Oregon SBDC regional office. His previous professional experience includes two years as an independent consultant, seven years as the owner/operator of a northern California wholesale food distribution company, and 14 years in banking, culminating as the CFO of Glendale Federal Bank Retail Banking in Los Angeles, California. Greg has an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Portland State University.



Charles "Tee" Rowe
President & CEO
America's SBDC

C. E. "Tee" Rowe is the President and CEO of the Association of Small Business Development Centers (America's SBDC), a nationwide network of more than 1,000 centers providing free, confidential business consulting and low-cost training to small business owners. He joined America's SBDC in August of 2009.

A graduate of Dartmouth College (AB, Russian Language/Literature, 1983) and the Tulane University School of Law (JD, 1989), Mr. Rowe has a long history of legislative and advocacy experience on behalf of the small business community.

Prior to joining America's SBDC, he served as Associate Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the U.S. Small Business Administration from 2005 to 2009. Before that, he served as Assistant Administrator for Congressional Affairs and was the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation at SBA from 2001 to 2005.

Tee also worked for 10 years (1991-2001) in the U.S. Congress as the Counsel to the Committee on Small Business in the U.S. House of Representatives. In that role, he was responsible for drafting most of the major small business legislation passed by the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Rowe resides in Great Falls, Virginia, with his wife Laurie and his daughter, Alex.



Michele Abraham
State Director, South Carolina

Michele Abraham has served as the State Director for the university-hosted South Carolina SBDC since January, 2010, and also served as the State Director for the state-hosted Ohio SBDC from 2006 to 2009. Her career has spanned work in both the private and public sectors, including positions in marketing, business development, sales management, strategic planning/management, product management and general management for small, medium and large companies. She also owned and operated two successful businesses for over 15 years. Her experience traverses many industries, ranging from consumer products to aerospace/aircraft and defense.

Michele serves on the America's SBDC Marketing/Communications Committee. She also oversees the SC PTAC program that is hosted by the SBDC in South Carolina. Since joining the SC SBDC, Michele led the organization through a successful re-accreditation with no conditions. She works extensively with partners and stakeholders, including helping to create and participating on the SC Department of Commerce small business council, and supporting key initiatives for the Governor.

Michele received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, with minors in Journalism and Public Relations from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She also has earned numerous business and technical certifications in management, strategic planning, balance scorecards, marketing, TQM and advanced materials technology.



Christian Conroy
State Director, Pennsylvania

Christian Conroy is the State Director of the Pennsylvania SBDC. Conroy has been with the Pennsylvania SBDC program since 1994, leading efforts to expand funding and investment of the program, ultimately establishing five new centers and a near doubling of the number of entrepreneurs assisted annually. During his tenure, Conroy has also successfully steered the network through three national accreditation reviews, most recently in 2011.

Conroy has testified before both houses of Congress in support of bills to expand the SBDC program, and leads the Legislative Committee of the Association of Small Business Development Centers (America's SBDC). His efforts to educate other SBDC programs on policymaker advocacy were recognized with awards from America's SBDC in 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2011. Conroy has served on both the America's SBDC Marketing and Accreditation committees for several years, helping to promote the national network of Small Business Development Centers.

Before joining the SBDC program, Conroy was a key staff member for a New York State Assembly Member and managed marketing and fundraising programs for a variety of arts, health and social services organizations. Conroy earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Albany and a Master of Liberal Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Bill Cummins joined the Alabama SBDC Network in 2011 as the Executive State Director. The Alabama SBDC Network, hosted by the University of Alabama, was established in 1980, and is home to the statewide SBDC program, PTAC program, and well-established Alabama International Trade Center.

Bill is a thirty-year veteran of commercial banking, having served a distinguished career in international trade finance with banks in the Southeastern United States. Most recently he was Vice President and Executive Director for Global Trade Services for JPMorgan Chase Bank. He currently serves as the vice chair of Alabama's District Export Council, chair of the International Trade Council of the Birmingham Business Alliance, and has been nominated to serve on the newly-minted Trade Finance Advisory Council for the US Department of Commerce.

A New Orleans native, Bill is a graduate of Tulane University and of the Masters of International Business Studies (MIBS) program of the University of South Carolina.

Mark Langford has been with the North Texas SBDC program for over 20 years, serving in various capacities, including senior business advisor, center director, North Texas SBDC Executive Director since 2011, and Associate State Director six years prior to that. In 2011, newly appointed to the highest leadership position in the North Texas SBDC Network, Mark led the Network through restructuring and reorganization efforts to increase staff and program performance and accountability. He is active in America's SBDC, serving on the Accreditation Committee, where he has been a member since 2010. He also served on the Operations Committee.

Before joining the SBDC program, Mark was an auditor for Ernst & Young. He also owned and operated his own small business for over 10 years. Mark earned a Bachelor of Business degree in Accounting from Texas Tech University and his Master's in Organization and Strategy from the University of Texas at Dallas.



Bill Cummins
State Director, Alabama



Mark Langford
State Director, North Texas



Georgianna Parkin
State Director, Massachusetts

Georgianna Parkin has been State Director of the Massachusetts SBDC since November, 1999. She has over 25 years of experience administering Federal funds from agencies including SBA, DOD, NIH, NSF, NPS and NASA.

Ms. Parkin is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with additional course work at Amherst College. She has served for eight years on the America's SBDC Board of Directors and held the positions of Vice Chair and Board Secretary. She chairs the America's SBDC Personnel Committee and chaired the search process to hire the Current CEO of the Association. She has won several leadership awards from SBA and the University, and has been recognized and honored by the current President Pro Tem of the Massachusetts Senate as an Unsung Heroine through the Massachusetts Commission on the status of Women. In 2008 she was nominated by the former Dean of the Isenberg School of Massachusetts for a statewide leadership award through the UMass President's Office. Other Board involvement includes Vice Chair of the Western Mass Enterprise Fund (a local CDFI) and board member of Quabbin Mediation.

Georgianna also participates in several statewide initiatives, including the Massachusetts Small Business Assistance Advisory Council, and she is a member of the Massachusetts Business roundtable sponsored by the Governor's office.



Katie Sewell
State Director, Idaho

Katie Sewell joined the Idaho SBDC as the Deputy Director in 1999, and she was named State Director in early 2013. She has more than 30 years of experience developing and delivering business assistance programs. Her areas of expertise include triple bottom line business practices, strategic planning, grant management, fundraising, program development, and building partnerships.

Katie oversees a network of six regional offices and a PTAC program. She has been a member of the America's SBDC Accreditation Committee since 2009, and she previously served on the Operations Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and as Interim Lead of the Environmental Regulatory/Sustainability Workgroup.