



2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mike Myhre
Chairman
State Director Florida

Michael is currently 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).



Michele Abraham
Vice Chair
State Director South Carolina

Michele has served as the State Director for the university hosted South Carolina SBDC since January 2010 and 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.



Linda Rossi
Secretary
State Director Vermont

Linda Rossi is the State Director of the Vermont Small Business Development Center. She joined the program in 2005 and has been a business advisor, Assistant Director and Associate State Director prior to becoming State Director in 2013. She is Chair of the New England region's professional development program including Core Competency onboarding for new advisors and has been a member of America's SBDC Marketing and Communications committee. Prior to joining the SBDC, Linda spent 20 years in the private sector as a national project manager for IBM, business manager for 4 start-ups and growing small businesses, as well as an adjunct faculty member in higher education and the treasurer and founding board member of a non-profit organization. In addition to a degree in business management, marketing, and psychology, she holds several certifications in leadership, project management, entrepreneurship education, and workforce development; and received recognition for her efforts in disaster recovery with the SBA Phoenix Award.



Lisa Shimkat
Treasurer
State Director Iowa

Lisa Shimkat is the State Director for America’s SBDC Iowa. Lisa has adapted to the changes within the business environment to create a strong resource and learning center with the SBDC that is more beneficial for entrepreneurs and creates a stronger ecosystem for small businesses within the state.

Lisa served on the Security and Exchange Commission’s National Advisory Committee for Small and Emerging Business representing rural and small business interests. She has 12 years’ experience within the SBDC network. Prior to joining the SBDC, her experience encompasses plant management in a privately held agricultural rebuilder as well as experience running national accounts for a warehouse and logistics company. Lisa received an MBA from Iowa State University. She also holds several other certifications including Certified Business Advisor and Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) certification through the National Development Council.



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, a nationwide network of over 1,000 centers providing free, confidential counseling and low cost training to small business owners. He joined the ASBDC 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 the ASBDC he served as Associate Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the US 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 ten years (1991-2001) in the US Congress as the Counsel to the Committee on Small Business in the US House of Representatives. In that role, he was responsible for drafting most of the major small business legislation passed by the US Congress.

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



Mark Langford
State Director North Texas SBDC

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 North Texas, Mark led the Network through restructuring and reorganization efforts to increase staff and program performance and accountability. He is active with the ASBDC by serving on the ASBDC Accreditation Committee; 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 Masters in Organization and Strategy from the University of Texas at Dallas.



Terry Chambers
Associate State Director
Washington SBDC

Terry is Associate State Director of statewide programs including International Trade, Technology, Intern Research Program, Client Training programs and a member 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 year 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, a small manufacturing business and 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.



Christian Conroy
State Director Pennsylvania
SBDC

Christian Conroy is the State Director of the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) where he is responsible for the management and oversight of 18 SBDCs serving Pennsylvania small businesses and entrepreneurs. 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 currently leads the legislative committee of the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC). His efforts to educate other SBDC programs on policymaker advocacy were recognized with awards from the ASBDC in 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2011. In addition, Conroy has served on both the ASBDC 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
State Director Alabama

Bill has been the Executive State Director of Alabama SBDC Network, University of Alabama since 2011. Commercial banking relationship manager and team lead for small business and middle market clients; extensive experience in government guaranteed lending and a trade finance specialist. Over 30 years banking experience, retired in 2010 from a senior management trade sales position with J. P. Morgan Chase (New Orleans). Have held numerous board and officer positions with trade associations and civic non-profits including the Alabama World Trade Association (President), Bankers Association on Foreign Trade (Chair, Small Business Committee), Louisiana District Export Council (Vice Chair & Treasurer), Alabama District Export Council (Chair), Steering Committee Member of the National District Export Council, World Trade Center of New Orleans (Director), Louisiana Association of Business & Industry (Director), Alabama Bankers Association (Chair, Int'l Banking Committee), North Cross United Methodist Church (Chair, Board of Trustees), College of Business -- Loyola University in New Orleans (Advisory Board Member). Adjunct Professor, LSU Graduate School of Banking.



Allan Adams
State Director Georgia

Mr. Adams has served with the Small Business Development Center in several capacities. These include roles with the Minority Business Division, the International Trade Division, and the Rural Economic Development Program, as well as serving as Associate State Director. Additional experience includes positions as an Associate Director at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and as a staff member in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. He is a member of the Georgia Economic Developers Association and the national Association of Small Business Development Centers.



Greg Panichello
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 eleven 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 fourteen 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's of Science degree in Business Administration from Portland State University.