

Derek Stephens joined Mississippi SBDC in May 2018 as a Business Counselor for the Tupelo region and moved to Technology Commercialization lead in September 2019.

As a part of a partnership between Mississippi SBDC and The University of Mississippi's Office of Technology Commercialization, Derek advises faculty researchers on startup and entrepreneurial efforts.

In March 2020, with anticipation of a rapidly changing business environment, Derek was tasked with building a Market Research specialty service and launched a customized market research report tailored for each individual client. The success of those efforts were highlighted at the 2021 America's SBDC Annual Conference in a session focused on market research with VerticalIQ.

Currently, Derek serves as the interim Assistant Director and manages the marketing and brand strategy for the Mississippi SBDC network.

Derek received his undergraduate degree in Banking and Finance from the University of Mississippi (UM) in 2012. Most recently, Derek received his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from UM in 2022.

Derek lives in Taylor, Mississippi with his wife Carrie and two sons, Harper and James.