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**Florida Small Business Development Center at FIU Earns National SBDC
Award**

MIAMI (Mar. 28, 2022) - The [Florida Small Business Development Center \(FSBDC\) at FIU Business](#) has won a top national award from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The FSDBC will be honored with the Small Business Development Center for Excellence and Innovation Center Award at a ceremony April 30, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

The event will be held during National Small Business Week, when the SBA recognizes centers dedicated to the success of small businesses and celebrates their contributions to the economy. According to SBA data, small businesses make up for about 50% of the workforce in the U.S.

“This award is a great honor that represents the hard work of our team and the FSBDC consultants, as well as their dedication to entrepreneurs and small business owners in Miami and South Florida,” said William Hardin, dean of FIU Business. “They are an asset committed to helping people succeed, creating jobs and creating economic opportunities.”

The FSBDC was recognized as the Florida SBDC Network Center of the Year for 2022, putting it in line to compete for the national award this year. Leading up to the state award was the center’s impact in 2021, where 2,051 businesses were assisted with 20,660 consulting hours. That year:

- 114 businesses launched

- \$117 million in capital secured
- \$33.3 million in government contracts secured
- \$154.1 million in increased revenues
- 429 jobs created
- 5,144 jobs retained

“We have one of the best jobs in Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys. The FSBDC team gets to help local business owners start, grow and realize their entrepreneurial dreams,” said Brian Van Hook, regional director, Florida SBDC at FIU Business. “For that reason, I thank the SBA for this national recognition of our team’s record levels of assistance and results provided to our clients in recent years.”

FSBDC consists of 20 highly knowledgeable business consultants who offer assistance with access to capital, investment business plans, financial management, government contracting, market analysis and more. The center began offering services in Miami-Dade County in 2014 and expanded to Monroe County in October 2018. In 2021, FSBDC also secured a highly competitive SBA Community Navigator grant for Miami-Dade County on behalf of the center and six other community organizations.

To learn more about the FSBDC, visit [SBDC.fiu.edu](https://sbdc.fiu.edu) or call 305-779-9230.

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About FIU Business:

Florida International University’s [College of Business](https://collegeofbusiness.fiu.edu) plays a pivotal role in the development of global business leaders. With nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, FIU Business is widely recognized for its expertise in international business, real estate, data analytics, entrepreneurship, healthcare management, and a broad range of financial services. For more information about FIU Business, visit www.business.fiu.edu.

About FIU:

Florida International University is a [top public university](#) that drives real talent and innovation in Miami and globally. Very high research (R1) activity and high social mobility come together at FIU to uplift and accelerate learner success in a global city by focusing in the areas of environment, health, innovation, and justice. Today, FIU has two campuses and multiple centers. FIU serves a diverse student body of more than 58,000 and 290,000 Panther alumni. U.S. News and World Report places dozens of FIU programs among the best in the nation, including international business at No. 2. Washington Monthly Magazine ranks FIU among the top 20 public universities contributing to the public good.