



**Small Business Development Centers**

*Helping businesses start, grow, and prosper.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pennsylvania SBDC State Director Christian Conroy  
Elected to National Association of Small Business Development  
Centers Board**

**SBDC Locations**

- Bucknell University
- Clarion University
- Duquesne University
- Gannon University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
- Lehigh University
- Lock Haven University
- Penn State University
- Saint Francis University
- Saint Vincent College
- Shippensburg University
- Temple University
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Scranton
- The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
- Widener University
- Wilkes University

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Christian Conroy, State Director of the [Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers](#) (SBDC), has been elected to the Board of Directors of the national [Association of Small Business Development Centers](#) (ASBDC) for a two year term through 2014.

As a board member, Conroy joins a ten-member team of SBDC state directors representing the program at the national level, advocating for small business and building on the program’s record of impact. Conroy is also a member of the ASBDC accreditation and marketing committees, and will continue to serve in these capacities.

The Association represents America's Small Business Development Center Network. The mission of the network is to grow small business in America by helping prospective entrepreneurs realize their dreams of business ownership, and assisting existing businesses to remain competitive and grow.

During the coming year, Conroy and the Association will be focusing on educating stakeholders on the critical role of the program in the nation’s economic development infrastructure. Representing more than 1,000 SBDCs, the ASBDC is the most comprehensive small business assistance network in the U.S. and its territories assisting more than one million businesses each year. In 2010, the national SBDC network created and saved more than 130,000 jobs at a cost of \$1,760 per job. During the same year, average SBDC client job growth averaged 9.5% when the national average was -0.5%. These SBDC clients generated more than \$4.7 billion in new sales and experienced an average sales increase of 16.8% between 2009 and 2010.

Employed with the Pennsylvania SBDC network since 1994, Conroy has held his current position of state director since 2007. In this role, Conroy is responsible for leading a statewide, \$12 million program of eighteen university based SBDCs that annually provides education and management consulting to 20,000 clients through utilizing professional staff, students and pro-bono professionals. The Pennsylvania SBDC program is supported with funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the eighteen university hosts.

(MORE)

Conroy earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Albany and a master of Liberal Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

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**About Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)**

*The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) supports the economic development of Pennsylvania by providing entrepreneurs and small businesses with individual consultation, comprehensive education and information necessary to help their businesses start, grow, and prosper. SBDCs deliver consulting services and educational programs through a network of [18 locations](#) across Pennsylvania. SBDC consultants work with entrepreneurs in confidential, one-to-one sessions to help them with issues including new business development, shaping a business plan, investigating funding opportunities, and much more. For more information on the Pennsylvania SBDC services and impact, please visit [www.pasbdc.org](http://www.pasbdc.org).*