



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, Small Business Development Centers Day is a national, collective proclamation of the success and impact America's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) have across the nation in economic development and the small businesses community; and

*WHEREAS*, the second America's SBDC Day will take place on Wednesday, March 21, 2018; and

*WHEREAS*, SBDC Day will unite the nearly 1,000 SBDCs across the country and the hundreds of thousands of clients they serve by sharing, in real time, the success stories and notable impacts; and

*WHEREAS*, the America's SBDC represents America's nationwide network of SBDCs—the most comprehensive small business assistance network in the United States and its territories; and

*WHEREAS*, business has changed dramatically in the last 38 years, from the introduction of new technologies to the expansion of global trade, and America's SBDC network has been there throughout—helping small businesses succeed, and helping aspiring entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning their own business; and

*WHEREAS*, since 1980, the Alabama SBDC Network has provided technical assistance and expert guidance to Alabama's small business community. The year 2017 capped another record five-year run for Alabama SBDC clients, who created 4,822 jobs, started 955 new businesses, accessed \$368.2 million in capital, and \$1.6 billion in procurement contracts. Alabama SBDC Network, which continues to demonstrate its hard work and commitment to "Growing Alabama's Economy, One Small Business at a Time," has helped create a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in Alabama; and

*WHEREAS*, the Offices of Small Business Advocacy, Minority Affairs, & International Trade at the Alabama Department of Commerce collaborate with the Alabama SBDC to ensure quality job creation throughout Alabama; and

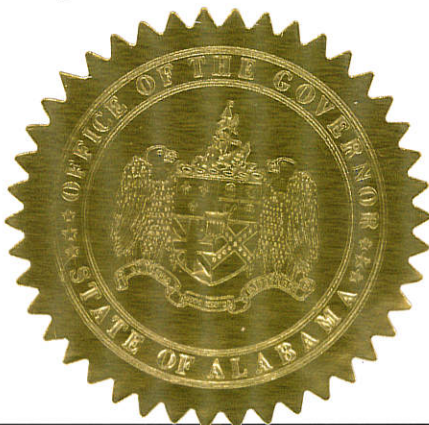
*WHEREAS*, the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs collaborates with the Alabama SBDC to identify companies that qualify to participate in the State Small Business Credit Initiative to obtain medium-term to long-term financing to grow and expand; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alabama SBDC Network is hosted by the University of Alabama, which partners with eight other institutions of higher education in an effort to connect entrepreneurs with the resources and insights of academia, and to connect students with experiential learning and future employment opportunities;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2018, as

## Small Business Development Centers Day

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2018.

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor