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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FSBDC NETWORK REGIONAL DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED AS "ECONOMIC PATRIOTISM AWARD" WINNER BY GOVERNOR JEB BUSH

Pensacola, FL - On January 24, 2002, Governor Jeb Bush recognized Dan Regelski, Director of the Florida Gulf Coast University Small Business Development Center, as Florida's "Economic Patriotism Award" winner. As part of a program with Delta Airlines to reward one person from each state for their exemplary efforts in helping small business owners recover from the aftermath of September 11, Regelski received two roundtrip tickets to New York City.

"We're excited to see this recognition bestowed on Dan Regelski for his contribution in assisting Florida's small businesses," says Jerry Cartwright, State Director of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network. "Dan's work ethic and leadership exemplifies the spirit that our 29 statewide SBDCs bring to helping Florida's entrepreneurs form, grow and sustain their dreams for business ownership. SBDCs are there through good and bad economic times and, as Dan Regelski has shown, the words 'I'm sorry, I can't help you' doesn't compute in the SBDC Network."

The FGCU SBDC has worked closely with local representatives, as well as the Governor's Office, to provide solutions and technical assistance to those businesses affected by this disaster, as well as the Lake Okeechobee drought disaster. The SBDC team attended numerous town hall meetings in Moore Haven and provided one-to-one counseling to business owners. Says Governor Bush, "Dan's efforts helped keep many small businesses afloat, ensuring that employees kept their jobs and were able to provide for their families. I commend him for going above and beyond the call of duty to help his fellow Floridians-not only in the aftermath of 9/11, but in his day-to-day regime."

"I was honored to receive this award but more honored to work with the entrepreneurs in our small business community," Regelski said. "I have an outstanding SBDC staff and team who all really respond to the needs of our small business community. Our partnerships with chambers, offices of economic development, ECC, vo-tech schools and numerous associations and organizations help us in reaching our target clients. Through counseling, educational programs and confidentiality, we are able to help businesses respond to adversity and succeed through sales and profits."

The FSBDC Network is a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration. As the largest and most successful business assistance program in Florida, the Network features 29 college and university-based centers strategically located throughout the state, with additional outreach provided at resource partner locations, including economic development councils, chambers of commerce and banks. The Network links the resources of federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector to provide the highest quality business management and technical assistance to entrepreneurs in Florida. Through the Network and its professionally trained Certified Business Analysts, existing small business owners and prospective entrepreneurs have access to free and confidential, one-on-one counseling on virtually any area of business management, as well as educational training events and information resources.

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