



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FSBDC Network's Third Annual Capitol-Business Briefing & Reception: Recognizing The Honorable Bill Young as Florida's 2002 Small Business Dividend\$ Award Winner



Pensacola, FL: On Wednesday, March 20, 2002, the Florida Small Business Development Center Network will conduct the **Third Annual Capitol-Business Briefing and Reception** at the Florida House on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. An award presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. to recognize The Honorable C. W. "Bill" Young as the **2002 Florida Small Business Dividend\$ Award** recipient.

The FSBDC Network implemented this annual event, in March 2000, as a new and exciting way to brief the Florida Congressional Delegation regarding the impact of federal funding on the overall Florida economy of the small business community and, in particular, the impact in each member's district. A distinctive element of the event is the acknowledgment of a Floridian whose service to the state has included the recognition of and diligent work in supporting legislation that is vital to the success of the small business community in Florida. The 2001 recipient of the Small Business Dividend\$ Award was retired Congressman Connie Mack and the inaugural recipient was retired Congressman Andy Ireland.

As the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful and distinguished committees in Congress, Congressman Young ultimately sets the direction of funding levels for all Federal agencies, programs and departments. Congressman Young has continually ensured that the Small Business Development Centers receive their fair share of federal resources to continue providing much needed assistance to the small business community.

Congressman Bill Young represents the 10th Congressional District of Florida and is serving in his 16th term in the United States House of Representatives. He is the senior member in the Florida Congressional delegation and Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. The 10th Congressional District of Florida is composed of southern Pinellas County and includes the cities of St. Petersburg, Largo, and Clearwater.

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.

For additional information about the **Capitol-Business Briefing & Reception**, please contact Kelly McLeod at 850-595-6060 x218 or kmcleod@uwf.edu.

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A statewide service network in partnership with the U.S. SBA, sponsored by the State University System of Florida, and administered by the University of West Florida