

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Business Growth Conferences Benefit Area Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

Lutz, Florida-- More than three dozen people took advantage of the free growth conference at the Land O' Lakes branch library on Wednesday, May 26, 2010. The conference, hosted by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at University of South Florida (USF) was held in honor of Small Business Week.

The free growth conferences, which were sponsored by the Small Business Administration, provided local business owners and entrepreneurs with information on ways to grow their business.

"The Small Business Development Center's mission is to help grow small business," stated Eileen Rodriguez, Regional Director of the SBDC at USF. "The focus of these conferences was to do just that. Attendees received valuable information on ways they can grow their business--from Internet marketing to importing."

The conferences were taught by SBDC Certified Business Analysts and covered the following topics: Certifications for Growth, Growing Globally, Marketing for Growth, Grow via Electronic Media and Financing Growth.

"We would like to hold more of these conferences," said John Hagen, President/CEO, Pasco Economic Development Council. "As we dig ourselves out of the present recession, small businesses will lead the way. We want to do anything we can to help them. Teaming up with the SBDC, the Workforce Board, the Library, and the Chambers is a great way to stretch resources and reach out to businesses who need help."

The SBDC also offers monthly classes on those same topics at its main office located in Tampa, as well as its regional offices in Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Highlands, and Sarasota counties. For more information, including office locations and a list of classes, please visit: www.sbdctampabay.com.

PEDC is an organization that promotes countywide economic development. Created in 1987 by a group of dedicated business and community leaders, it continues to be a strong partnership funded by corporate and public investors and focused on the economic vitality of Pasco County.

The Florida SBDC Network, a statewide service network of 35 centers, is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the [U.S. Small Business Administration](http://www.sba.gov), hosted by the [University of West Florida](http://www.uwf.edu) and accredited through the national [Association of SBDCs](http://www.sbdcnetwork.org). For over 30 years, the Network has nourished a statewide partnership between higher education and economic development organizations and has been dedicated to providing emerging and established business owners with assistance, enabling overall growth and increased profitability for the businesses and economic prosperity for the state. To learn more about the Florida SBDC Network or to find an SBDC near you, visit www.FloridaSBDC.org or call 1.866.737.7232.

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