

# **Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

## **Information Requested by Committee Members**

**Education Sector:** Community Colleges

**Committee Question:** The Committee asked for outcomes data on the State's Small Business Centers.

**Answer:**

The Community Colleges System Office provided the attached document in response to the Committee's question.



## **Small Business Center Network**

### **Mission and Purpose**

The objective of the Small Business Center Network (SBCN) is to increase the success rate and the number of viable small businesses in North Carolina by providing high quality, readily accessible assistance to prospective and existing small business owners which will lead to job creation and retention.

### **Services**

- Seminars, workshops, and short courses for prospective and existing small business owners.
- One-on-One confidential counseling sessions to assist prospective business owners during startup and existing businesses during operation.
- Dedicated small business resource center which provides easily accessible current small business information and resources of use to prospective and current small business owners.

### **FY 09-10 Outputs**

- Provided 4,959 total events comprised of 3,608 seminars and 1,350 FTE generating events.
- Offerings attended by 70,050 individuals of whom 60,889 were SBC seminar/workshop attendees and 9,769 were FTE students.
- Counseled 6,425 clients of which 49% were female and 37% were minority or Hispanic.

### **FY 09-10 Outcomes**

- 740 business startups
- 3,184 jobs created/retained (1,764 new jobs, 1,420 jobs retained)
- \$1,651 cost per job created/retained

### **Effects of Reductions**

The ability of the SBCN to create/retain jobs, assist in loan preparation, and assist businesses develop plans to repay taxes owed is directly linked to the resources available at each SBC thus a 7% reduction in resources at the local level could translate into 222 fewer jobs created/retained, a diminished ability of the SBCN to assist with the NC Department of Revenue's \$25M Accounts Receivable program, and reduced capacity to support the NC Department of Commerce/NC Rural Center's \$800M Capital Access Program.

Any reduction of the SBCN budget will have a negative impact on jobs created/retained, client loan applications, and outstanding taxes repaid.