



Alabama Small Business Development Center Network

Strengthening Alabama's Economy, One Small Business at a Time.

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Joe Grimes Awarded "2016 Alabama State Star"

Small businesses in Alabama are growing stronger every day, and Joe Grimes, a Business Advisor with the Alabama SBDC at Jacksonville State University (JSU), has contributed significantly to their success. Grimes has been selected as the **2016 Alabama State Star**, a nationally-recognized award designed to highlight exemplary performance and significant contribution to the small business community. Grimes was presented with his award at the annual conference of America's Small Business Development Centers in Orlando, FL, in September.



Ken Grissom, Director of Alabama SBDC at JSU, says, "Joe understands the challenges faced by Alabama's small businesses, and is uniquely qualified to help them grow and succeed. He has been in their seat, and has sat across the table from them at the bank. This well-deserved recognition is a great honor for Joe and the rest of the Alabama SBDC team, but don't take it from me, just read what his clients have to say about him."

I was so happy to be welcomed and truly valued. Joe is so supportive, understanding, accommodating, knowledgeable, and inviting. Alabama should be proud to have such a treasure for small businesses in our area, the Alabama SBDC at JSU is the BEST PLACE for business men and women to really feel welcomed and encouraged. Joe has made a difference in my business and also in my life and the lives of those around me. You are THE BEST! *Katie, Calhoun County*

Joe's background in banking, as well as his contacts in the field allowed him to provide ideas and guidance to us that continue to direct us daily. We certainly know that he has us in mind when new opportunities present and we appreciate the ideas and guidance that he provides. *Janine, Talladega County*

Grimes holds an undergraduate degree from the University of

Alabama, attended the LSU Graduate School of Banking, and completed his MBA at Jacksonville State University. Prior to joining the Alabama SBDC in 2011, Grimes worked in education, commercial banking, and owned his own business.

"The SBDC State Star Award has a long tradition in our industry as the top award for recognizing an individual's outstanding performance and contribution to our mission of furthering small business success and job creation in Alabama. Joe has leveraged his own small business and banking experience to positively impact so many businesses in Alabama", Bill Cummins, Executive State Director, Alabama SBDC Network.

The Alabama Small Business Development Center Network is a statewide program that provides no-cost assistance to companies and individuals in Alabama that are interested in: growing or starting a business, disaster assistance and business continuity, franchising, accessing capital / financing, selling to the federal government, or exploring international trade. The Alabama SBDC is an accredited member of America's SBDC, the most comprehensive small business assistance network in the United States. Certified business advisors are available in 10 SBDC locations across the state. Take action today: Call us at 877-825-7232, 205-348-1582, visit ASBDC.org, or email ASBDC@ua.edu.