

**FOR RELEASE:** IMMEDIATE

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - A Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been established at Youngstown State University as part of the University's Public Service Institute and its Cushwa Center for Industrial Development by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Ohio Department of Development.

University President Neil D. Humphrey said, "This new status enables the University to help and guide small businesses and entrepreneurs considering forming a business, by linking resources of federal, state and local governments with those of the University and the private sector."

YSU's Small Business Development Center, one of 12 in Ohio, has been created with a \$50,000 grant from the Small Business Administration, a \$20,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development, and matching funds from the University. The assistance offered by the SBDC is free to businesses and entrepreneurs in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

The SBDC's program is designed to provide in-depth organizational, financial, marketing, and technical assistance to small businesses, and to individuals planning to organize their own business. President Humphrey called the creation of the SBDC "a step forward in aiding the economic development of the area. The program's emphasis provides a cooperative thrust that can lead to new businesses, expansion of existing firms, and new careers for the whole region."

As a department of the Cushwa Center for Industrial Development, the Small Business Development Center will be located in the University's Public Service Institute building on Spring Street. The Institute, in addition to

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the Cushwa Center, also includes the Ohio Technology Transfer Organization (OTTO), the Center for Urban Studies, the Center for Human Services Development, and the Engineering Services Center.

William Cossler, OTTO agent at YSU and acting director of the Cushwa Center, said "Creation of the SBDC provides YSU with still another opportunity to assist in business development in our area and the creation of new job opportunities. In doing so, the SBDC will complement the overall mission of the University's Public Service Institute, and more specifically, will complement the work of our Cushwa Center in its cooperative efforts with the Chambers of Commerce, the business incubators, and the local economic development agencies and offices to provide timely business assistance in this tri-county area."

Patricia L. Krankota will be managing and coordinating the SBDC program. For more information, call the center at (216) 742-3495.

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