



Southern University EDA University Center

The major goal of Southern University and A&M College EDA University Center is to expand and revitalize entrepreneurial and economic development in targeted regions of Louisiana (northeast, central and southeast Louisiana including main urban centers) by providing tangible programs (technical assistance and training on entrepreneurship and workforce development; conducting, sharing and disseminating applied research; and advancing innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by collaborating with scholars and community leaders) that enhance existing businesses and help create new venture opportunities in the economies of the target region.

EDA University Center at Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Principal Investigator:
Dr. Donald R. Andrews,

Director: Dr. Ghirmay S. Ghebreyesus

Co-Director: Dr. Sung C. No

Co-Director: Dr. Aloyce Kaliba

CENTER LOCATION:

College of Business,
T.T. Allain Hall, Room 251
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

CENTER ACTIVITIES

- Technical Assistance and Training
- Applied Research
- Advancing Entrepreneurship and Innovation

CLIENTS

- Business Entrepreneurs
- Real Estate Investors
- Small Business and Start-up
- Community and Neighborhood Developers
- Faculty and Students

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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EDA University Center at Southern University and A&M College major activities include:

Advancing Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

The center promotes entrepreneurship development using its annual economic development conferences and workshops. These platforms help create a culture that would foster a favorable attitude toward entrepreneurship conducive to business and innovation. The Center offers courses on entrepreneurship and leadership and includes Business Entrepreneurship Advancement Program (BEAP) for Covid-19 Economic Recovery and Strategic Leadership in Times of Crisis. The Center also hosts business plan/case competition and works with Nexus at the Louisiana Research Park to help develop the BizTech Challenge Business Plan Competition that brings students to New Orleans at the Bayou Classic for a business plan competition.

Conducting, Sharing and Disseminating Applied Research

The Center conducts applied research, economic impact analysis, and business feasibility studies based on the needs presented and obtained from various community stakeholders. The Center uses the skills of business and economics faculty who have specialties in the area of economic development, and knowledge of the latest software tools, such as IMPLAN and econometric software Strata for regional planning. Research is also conducted on access to capital for small and medium-sized firms and ethnically diverse enterprises.

Technology Assistance and Training

These activities are to train individuals who +need to acquire or improve specific skills to be competitive in the job market and provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs, businesses and communities to strengthen or develop their entrepreneurial ecosystem. Training programs on workforce development concentrate on special topics, such as contract procurement, project management, business software application (Microsoft Office, Advanced Excel, QuickBooks), E-commerce, supply chain management, and target markets, niches, and positioning of small business.

Another training program the Center offers is the nationally acclaimed "Creating Sustainable Neighborhood Developers' Program," a combination of lecture and hands-on software training on property development in the neighborhood. The program consists of ten training modules including acquisition, personal money and credit management, provisional capacity management, funding, development and construction, licenses-permits-certifications, QuickBooks, understanding blueprints, bidding projects and construction documentation, estimating and Xactimate training, and project management.



The EDA University Center is led by a team of the SU College of Business faculty and staff. Funding support for the Center is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.