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California SBDC hires statewide outreach director

SACRAMENTO — The California Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network has hired Michele Gault as its new statewide director of outreach and partnerships in Sacramento.

In this new position Gault will work to develop and strengthen partnerships between the SBDC programs, area small business organizations and represent the SBDC as a member of various small business working groups. The California SBDC is made up of 35 Small Business Development Centers serving more than 100 communities. In 2010, the California SBDC provided free business advising services to more than 50,000 small businesses in the state and contributed to the creation and retention of nearly 6,000 jobs.

In this new position Gault will also implement a legislative affairs strategy, culminating in an annual legislative conference in Sacramento, created to inform elected officials about the SBDC program and the valuable services it offers to help small business owners expand and create new jobs in California.

Gault comes to the California SBDC from the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served as district director for Congressman John Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek). Previously, she worked in the office of the Lieutenant Governor, as director of the California Commission for Economic Development. Her earlier experience includes serving as the director of the Northern California World Trade Center and as trade policy analyst for the California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency.

Gault, a native of Sacramento, holds a master's degree from George Washington University and a bachelor's from the University of Southern California.

To find out more about the California SBDC, contact Gault at (916) 319-9947, or go to www.californiasbdc.org.