**Sioux Falls Business Magazine – February 2013**

The South Dakota Small Business Development Center Network had another successful year in 2012 with over 1,900 clients served across the state. Statewide, staff provided over 18,000 hours of counseling and our clients injected over $250 m. of direct economic impact to our state’s economy while creating and retaining over 1,400 jobs!

And while many small business owners and entrepreneurs know us for our business planning assistance what they may not know is that we have expanded our services to assist our state’s small businesses in a wide variety of areas. While I will spare you the acronyms, small business owners should know that in addition to helping companies get started, we are equally committed to helping our small businesses grow. The same expertise we provided to companies as they were starting up is equally important and available to companies who are looking to expand, add staff or equipment or who just want to have a regular check up on their business plan.

We have staff with experience and resources to help companies expand their markets through government contracting and exporting and our *Manufacturing & Technology Solutions* program helps companies with process improvement that will help eliminate waste and increase productivity. All services are available at no charge with the exception of MTS that charges a nominal fee based on the size of the business.

Individuals interested in our services or who may have questions can visit our website, [www.usd.edu/sbdc](http://www.usd.edu/sbdc) or can call our state office in Vermillion at (605) 677-5103.