Survey: 2009 Environmental Scan

Export Raw Results as Excel

Issues: All Invited: 28 Responses: 9 (32 %)

1. In support of Utah SBDC Strategic goal number 1 "To provide significant assistance to entrepreneurs that provides high impact to the economy resulting in revenues, profits, and jobs," what more do we need to do? Response (most recent of 9) Date 1/8/2009 12:30:21 Develop long-term relationships with existing businesses and try to move away from counseling so many start-up companies. PM 12/31/2008 Continue to work with partnering agencies, ie. BEAR 11:17:40 AM Secure additional funding that regional centers could competitively apply for or prepare grants in support of regional center projects and initiatives that lead to 12/23/2008 business development, job creation, and revenue expansion. 5:24:15 PM 12/17/2008 Be able to provide solid statistics of opportunities for selling goods and services. 12:25:52 PM I think the SBDC has done a fantastic job meeting clients needs. A very large portion of people coming to the center are referred by a former client. That being 12/17/2008 said, name recognition, and promotion in the community, do much to make businesses aware 12:19:25 PM 12/16/2008 Stop helping start up companies. 4:46:25 PM 12/15/2008 The SBDC needs to give directors and employees more time or staff to market to this group, so they can develop the relationships necessary to support this group. 9:32:45 AM It seems to me that we have a box full of tools to assist busnesses with, but it has been hard to get them to want to use them. It's kind of like, You can lead a 12/12/2008 horse to water, but you can't make them drink, kind of situatioin. So, thinking about 3:38:49 PM 12/11/2008 I think we are on the right course. I would like to see us stay this course, not develop more programs, and let it work. 11:41:14 AM All Responses "To provide significant assistance to entrepreneurs that enhances long-term survivability of the business," what more do we need to do? Response (most recent of 8) Date 1/8/2009 12:30:21 Right now this is critical. We need to make businesses aware of our services and encourage their participation in in-depth counseling and training. PM 12/31/2008 n/a 11:17:40 AM 12/23/2008 5:24:15 See above. PM 12/17/2008 Move away from developing business plans and intensify training on strategic planning. 12:25:52 PM On an individual basis, counselors should form a relationship with pre-venture businesses which lasts far beyond completion of a business plan. Often a pre-12/17/2008 venture clients will come to the center seeking start up assistance. Once they start their bus 12:19:25 PM 12/16/2008 4:46:25 the track we are on to help in this area is getting us where we want to be. PM

Again, we have the training tools already, the question is how do we get the businesses to want to participate. And again, I think it revolves around being

12/12/2008 3:38:49

informed. We have a great tool in our FastTrac Growth Venture program that hits this question	PM
We already have the programs and ability all we need to do is convince the client of their need for a higher level of counseling. However, the client usually wan Quickie counseling session and doesn't want to do the work of really crunching nu	ts a 12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	
"To provide significant assistance to entrepreneurs that increases the knowledge and skills of entrepreneurs," what more do we need to do?	
Response (most recent of 7)	Date
Continue to offer the classes that we currently offer.	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
continue to offer courses and seminars that will enhance knowledge and skills.	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
See above.	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
To provide more live training events for the existing business that stretches their creative thinking.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
More effort could be made to increase the quality/quantity of workshops	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
I would like a list of whatever Angel Investor Groups we may have available.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
Same answer as the previous question. The only thing that will help this type of client is to instill in them a desire to take it up a notch and get a higher level of skill. All Responses	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
What are we doing now that we should stop doing?	Date
Response (most recent of 6)	
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
I have been very disappointed in the Gaining Focus program and the dashboard. They are good tools to have in our tool box, but we need something different. This is probably my local office problem, not a state office problem.	
Overall I am very impressed with the professionalism found within the entire SBDC network. One concern that I do have is regarding certification. Admittedly I have not progressed, as far as I had hoped to in the certification program, but I feel the	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
Helping start up companies at least decreasing the number we help.	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I am not aware of anything at this time.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
I don't know of any off hand but if there are plans to develop new exciting programs, that should be put on hold. We need to work on the programs we have a not go in new directions until the current programs have been tested. If they aren't worki All Responses	nd 12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
2. In support of our strategic goal #2 "To increase funding to the Utah SBDC program	
through increased recognition by our stakeholders as an essential resource and quality program," what more do we need to do?	

Response (most recent of 7)	Date
Increase visibility of the Utah SBDC as a whole, but of our regional centers as well.	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM

Recognition will naturally follow as we consistently deliver economic impact at the regional level.	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
In times of major cutbacks by the State, I don't think we can look to them for additional funding.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
Great question We as individual centers need to be involved more directly in community economic development efforts. Whether that is working with SCORE, or the local Chamber of Commerce, we need to increase our visibility.	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
I can only think that our Stake Holders need to be made keenly aware of what resources are available that benefit those businesses that use them and the overall positive benefit it provides to business success. Maybe, they should read some of the e	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
We need a better or maybe I should say, different relationship with the stakeholders. I assume we have a good relationship but it seems odd that whenever some new project comes up the power that be, give it to USTAR (or whomever), along with the fun	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	
"opportunities for grants and program income," what more do we need to do?	
Response (most recent of 6)	Date
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
Actively seek out/aggressively pursue federal, state, and/or private grant opportunites. Work with regional centers in identifying worthy projects and initiatives that lead to economic impact. Regional Centers with the help of the state office can	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
I new line up of classes that addresses today's economy may create more program income	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
be creative in finding more ways to take advantage of grants	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I don't know much about grants, but program income seems to be in direct proportion to the courses and skills taught by SBDC members.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
then go after them.	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	
. In support of our strategic goal #3 "To add value to our host institutions and stakeholders,"	
what more do we need to do?	
Response (most recent of 8)	Date
We already add value to our host institutions and stakeholders, we just need to be more visible.	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM

Assess/evaluate our programs and services and ask the question, Are we adding value, providing impact? We can do this at the regional level and adjust as appropriate. Given the current budget crisis in higher education, our host institutions ne 12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM 12/17/2008

Be a strong player in the Seed regional programs and work with USTAR and other programs more.

I think we do this very well. Communication is key.

nothing

12:25:52 PM 12/17/2008

12:19:25 PM 12/16/2008

4:46:25 PM

	Continue to make a concerted effort to recognize our host institutions and Stakeholders, whenever we do a course or training event or advertisement. I think we are doing that pretty much know, so I don't know if that answers the question as to what m				
	As the budget has shrunk for the state, the only thing my host institution cares about are student FTE's. If we aren't bringing in FTE's we aren't even on the radar right now.				
1	NI Responses				
4	Do you think our current strategic goals need to be enhanced, revised or added to?				
I	Please share your thoughts.				
	Response (most recent of 6)	Date			

	Buto
No	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
I think they are still fine.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
within the next year they need to be reivised. things have changed and we need to change with them. re-evaluate what we can do to have a more effective impact on those we serve.	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
No, I'm good with the ones we have.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
No. No. No. Tiny changes on the tiller steers a great ship. If we continue to apply a Turn-around management style, all we are going to do is keep turning around.	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM

All Responses

5. Please enter your community's three most pressing training needs in order of priority (i.e. "an agriculture oriented entrepreneur training program").

Please list in order of priority.	
Response (most recent of 9)	Date
Financing options/access to capital Customer Service Marketing/Market research	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
customer service, financial help, managing a business	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
1. Business Survival Tactics: Converting Adversity into Opportunity 2. The Virtual Entrepreneur 3. Access to Capital	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
Selling to the government. Developing marketing strategies Strategic planning for a new economy.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
1. An E-Commerce oriented training program 2. QuickBooks Training / Fundamental Accounting Principles 3. Market research/analysis training	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
business basics, marketing/customer service, strategic planning	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
1. E-Commerce 2. Basic Accounting 3. Legal	12/15/2008 9:32:45 AM
There is a need for the FastTrac programs. It has been my experience as a Banker, that most small business owners don't understand the importance of monitoring their growth and has cash flow is connected to healthy growth. Also, there seems to be a c	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
As stated by a recent Chamber/DWS committee meeting the areas of focus for us are Tourism/Recreation, Light Manufacturing, Energy. Anything that can be	12/11/2008

tailored to those industries. All Responses	11:41:14 AM
. Does our network need to find or develop new training programs to meet your community training needs?	
Please share your thoughts and priorities.	
Response (most recent of 6)	Date
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
Ves	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
No Libink that may be more effectively handled by the local centers	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
10	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
I don't think so. I think we can use what we have and tailor the programs to the needs of the clients	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	
Please share your thoughts and related benefits to be derived by the network. Response (most recent of 5)	Date
BEAR program, customer service training,	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
Using articles to increase our credentials.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
BEAR	12/16/2008 4:46:2 PM
I'm not sure if I have many strengths, that others don't already have or more. But I do understand banking and can help people prepare to seek financing. I feel am able to add to the fastTrac Growth Venture classes due to my banking background and	I 12/12/2008 3:38:4 PM
I can do everything for everybody. I learned that from my clients over the years. In reality, I think my skills are equivalent to the skill set of other RD's.	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	
. Please list specialized skills and training you and your center need to be more effective and efficient.	
Please include suggestions of training programs as well as skills. Response (most recent of 7)	Date
organizational skills to help organize what needs to be done, and how. I know it is difficult for us were we work directly with CEU, and can't seem to get financial reports, and work with the billing department. Other than that I'm not sure.	
How to operate in a virtual environment: Telecommunication skills, online/web based resources, distance education/training options, technology to support virtual	

mentoring/coaching, etc.

ΡM

Selling to the government	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
QuickBooks, E-Commerce, Market Analysis/Research	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
business valuation, how to properly evaluate a business for it weaknesses, growth models,	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I am improving my all around computer skills and want to continue to do so.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
I would like to find more training in customer service directed at the tourist industry. I would like to develop something like the old Super-Host program. If that could be developed by our network and THEN partnered with the state tourism people All Responses	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
9. Please list the Utah SBDC network (statewide) strengths.	
One way we will use this question results is to clarify our program value proposition.	
Response (most recent of 7)	Date
Qualified and dedicated team	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
1. The ability to create and innovate. 2. The willingness to support and help each other as a network. 3. Regional champions who pursue, develop and impleme programs and services of relevance. 4. A highly committed, loyal and capable team. 5.	nt 12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
We are a part of the community.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
becoming more consistant, most counselors are qualified to advise, we all have an area of speciality if we would just rely on each other.	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I am not sure if I am that familiar what all of the strengths are. I know that Alan, does 7 habits Mark, does Dashboard Lenn, does BizSmart and that is about it.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
We have qualified people dedicated to the success of economic development in their areas. We work very well together as regions. We have few (if any) empire builders that aren't willing to work as a team. All Responses	e 12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
10. Please list formal or informal partnerships your center and the state SBDC maintain make the most difference in moving to our strategic goals.	
A simple list in priority sequence would be most helpful.	
Response (most recent of 8)	Date
Host institution, economic development, chamber of commerce, banks	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM

AM 1. Higher Education 2. Public (Not-for-Profit) and Private (For-Profit) Entities 3. National Industry Associations 4. Federal Government (SBA, USDA) 5. State 12/23/2008 5:24:15 Government (GOED) ΡM 12/17/2008 12:25:52

I still believe the banks are my most important partners and I have not been doing a good job of communicating with them.

ΡM

1. SCORE 2. Local Community Development 3. Banks and Credit Unions	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
BEAR, Coutny Economic developers, chamber of commerce, local banks, city economic developers/managers,	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I am not aware of what those are. Alan, might know.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
The most effective partnerships at my level of the SBDC are those local partnerships with local entities. In priority of impact to the program Chambers DWS AOG County Economic Development	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	

11.

What do you think all Utah SBDC regional centers offer or have in common that we can brag about?	
Response (most recent of 8)	Date
Dedication, community oriented, knowledge/education	1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
Programs of relevance that have made a difference in each of the individual areas and state-wide.	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
We are part of the community.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
Experience and Education	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
Trainings, knowledge base, accessiblity,	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
Hard working, intelligent, and dedicated people.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
I'm not sure of the best way to word this so it isn't offensive to some stakeholder. I think one of the greatest things this organization has accomplished over it's existence is the level of service to the community that we have been able to maintai	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses	

12. Please respond to the following statements:

We are effective at targeting those clients where our services can make the most difference.





13. In what areas is our program weak, areas of specialized knowledge, skills, resources, strategies...?

Please list the areas of greatest weakness first.		
Response (most recent of 5)	Date	
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM	
Statewide marketing efforts	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM	
Practical marketing expertise, we have plenty theoretical expertise. Access to market research tools.	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM	
we do not rely on each other enough, no buy in from the state, are not repected for our skills,	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM	
Not aware of any.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM	
All Responses		

14. We have numerous potential projects that are, will or can facilitate improvement in our program and mitigate weaknesses as well as generate new fee income. What areas should be be targeting?

Client assessments





Response (most recent of 4)	Date
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
I believe the strongest potential for success state-wide is to pursue, at least in part, programs and services of relevance at the regional level. This is where the rubber meets the road. The strongest and most enduring programs are potentially those	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
Taking the Ethan's BEAR program to other areas.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
I can only speak for myself and know that most of my weaknesses are computer related. So, that is why I am focused on continuing my computer training for myself, i.e. excel, access, word 2007. Other areas would be computer graphics.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
All Responses	
	n/a I believe the strongest potential for success state-wide is to pursue, at least in part, programs and services of relevance at the regional level. This is where the rubber meets the road. The strongest and most enduring programs are potentially those Taking the Ethan's BEAR program to other areas. I can only speak for myself and know that most of my weaknesses are computer related. So, that is why I am focused on continuing my computer training for

16. Please list the Utah SBDC organization opportunities you think need to be included or considered for our long-range plans.

Response (most recent of 5)	Date
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
Regional sites who are hungry to make a difference, have an impact.	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
Cross region activity and marketing of the program on a statewide level.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
I think a marketing plan to inform our client base about what resources are available for their benefit and growth. Also, better information and training regarding who our partners are and what they do.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
In the future, even though clients prefer face-to-face counseling, the trend will be towards online counseling. We need to stay on the frontline of that effort.	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM

All Responses

17. Please indicate who you currently partner with from the following list:

Custom Fit





Area economic development managers

18. Please list other partners not listed above.

Please note the importance to your community of these relationships.

Response (most recent of 7)	Date
BEAR, United Way	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
Commercial Businesses, Higher Education, Industry Associations, Not-for-Profit Community and Economic Development Entities	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
I have many relationships that are not full partnerships.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
These relationships are very important. SCORE has been an exceptionally great resource for finding clients who are better situated for SBDC services. A more directed approach to involve lending institutions.	12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
BEAR	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I partner with Snow College's Auto Dept. to provide UHP Cetification Training for our local businesses. Also, I partner with USU, to assist in providing Quick Book training to our local farmers, ranchers, and business men and women.	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
	12/11/2008

Workforce Services, Associations of Governments All Responses	11:41:14 AM
9. Please list opportunities you think the Utah SBDC Network should pursue in our updated strategic plan.	
Please include the value for each.	a t a
	ate 2/31/2008 11:17:40
n/a Al	
1. Partnerships with higher education in the delivery of programs and services. 2. Partnerships with industry and business.	2/23/2008 5:24:15 M
Sorry, no thoughts	2/17/2008 12:25:52 M
I wonder if the bond is as strong state wide with Custom Fit, as it is with Snow College. It has been a great enhancement and provides strength to have CFT and the SBDC over-lap. All Responses	2/12/2008 3:38:49 M
20. Please list the major threats to your center operation as a productive SBDC.	
On each risk, please note why it should be addressed.	
Response (most recent of 7) I think the SBDC's are a well-kept secret. We need to get the word out that we are here and willing and able to help	Date 1/8/2009 12:30:21 PM
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
1. Financial resources to develop, implement and maintain programs and services. Why: It is the fuel that keeps the fire burning.	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM
The start up business has always been the mainstay. There is not much opportunity to start a business right now, so I have to have a substantive program for the existing business beyond writing a business plan.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM
State cuts to the colleges.	12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
I think the biggest threat to our SBDC is the lack of funding available to allow us to do what we need to do as far as customer awareness, knowledge of resources and marketing and advertisement programs to make our customers more aware of what is ava	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
The greatest risk my center faces is the current economic crisis and the related restrictions on loans. Even though I'm still doing the work and my clients are still ready to go into business, the increased down payment, higher credit standards, and All Responses	12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
1. What are the major risks to the Utah SBDC Network?	
To clarify the risks, please note why you're including it on the list.	
Response (most recent of 7)	Date
n/a	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
 Lack of contribution, failure to add value to our host institutions. Given the current budget crisis in higher education state-wide, this is potentially a serious risk. Low levels of economic impact. Given the economic circumstances at both 	12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM

Well funding is always a risk, but not one that I worry about too much. I think credentials is are I Funding	biggest concern.	12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM 12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM
buy in from the state		12/16/2008 4:46:25 PM
Again, funding and communication, is what I see to be on the top of my list. Maybe it is just me a going on.	and I need to be aware of how to be more in the loop of what is	12/12/2008 3:38:49 PM
The same credit crisis risk I stated earlier.		12/11/2008 11:41:14 AM
All Responses		
2. Regarding risks, what addtional concerns should we consider in our strategic planning process?	?	
Please be as specific as possible.		
Response (most recent of 3) D	Date	
n/a 1:	2/31/2008 11:17:40 AM	
How to shift our programs with the community needs.	2/17/2008 12:25:52 PM	
Program income is more of a concern than ever, with all the budget cuts that are taking place. 13 All Responses	2/12/2008 3:38:49 PM	
с с ст		
All Responses		
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an		Date
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an Are there any trends you can see that we should consider in our strategic plans?		Date 12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an Are there any trends you can see that we should consider in our strategic plans? Response (most recent of 6)	nd adopting for our own use?	12/31/2008
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an Are there any trends you can see that we should consider in our strategic plans? Response (most recent of 6) n/a 1. The increasing trend to outsource in almost all functions of business, health care and governm	nd adopting for our own use?	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM 12/23/2008 5:24:15
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an Are there any trends you can see that we should consider in our strategic plans? Response (most recent of 6) n/a 1. The increasing trend to outsource in almost all functions of business, health care and governm back home. 3. The emergence of virtual businesses where geography and even economic	nd adopting for our own use?	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM 12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM 12/17/2008
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an Are there any trends you can see that we should consider in our strategic plans? Response (most recent of 6) n/a 1. The increasing trend to outsource in almost all functions of business, health care and governm back home. 3. The emergence of virtual businesses where geography and even economic I just keep wanting a deeper level of assistance. Don't know how to get there.	nd adopting for our own use?	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM 12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM 12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM 12/17/2008
All Responses 23. What other trends do you feel the Utah SBDC program should be proactively learning about an Are there any trends you can see that we should consider in our strategic plans? Response (most recent of 6) n/a 1. The increasing trend to outsource in almost all functions of business, health care and governm back home. 3. The emergence of virtual businesses where geography and even economic 1 just keep wanting a deeper level of assistance. Don't know how to get there. E-Commerce and utilizing web technologies. Progress has definitely been made.	nd adopting for our own use?	12/31/2008 11:17:40 AM 12/23/2008 5:24:15 PM 12/17/2008 12:25:52 PM 12/17/2008 12:19:25 PM 12/15/2008 9:32:45