Assembly Resolution No. 985

BY: M. of A. Woerner

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 20, 2024, as Small Business Development Centers Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the entrepreneurs and small businesses that contribute substantially to the economic and social vitality of their communities, thereby enhancing economic and social well-being of the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim Wednesday, March 20, 2024, as Small Business Development Centers Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) Day is a national, collective observation of the impact that America's SBDCs have on the success of our nation's dreamers, innovators, and doers who embody such small businesses; and

WHEREAS, First observed in 2017, SBDCs Day unites the nearly 1,000 SBDC centers across the country and the hundreds of thousands of clients they serve every year by sharing, in real time, the success stories and significant impacts SBDCs and their business advisors have had on the small business community at large; and

WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 by an act of Congress, reflecting federal awareness of the importance of small businesses to the nation's economy and the need for federal government involvement in fostering a climate in which small businesses could flourish; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Small Business Development Centers was officially formed in 1979 with a focus on one-on-one business advisement, business education, and data-driven specialty programming; proving lastingly significant, the SBDC program is the federal government's largest and most successful management and technical assistance program for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The New York SBDC has 20 regional centers and over 70 satellite locations across New York State; in 2023, it provided services to over 23,000 small businesses, hosted over 550 educational workshops, and had a financial impact of over $300 million; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, the New York SBDC celebrates its 40th anniversary; as one of the nation's first small business development networks, small business advisors within the New York SBDC have, since its inception, assisted over 580,000 businesses, created, or saved more than 260,000 jobs, and generated a financial impact of over $8.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, SBDC advisory services include assistance at all stages of

the business cycle, covering items such as business plans, financial projections, market research, marketing support, certifications, and assistance with identifying funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Small Business Development Centers and their advisors also function as first responders for small businesses in the aftermath of disasters; these centers worked with New York's small businesses on recovery and support in the aftermath of events like 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, All SBDCs are associated with host academic institutions, linking higher education institutions with small businesses in their communities and providing a connection between academic and business pathways across New York State; and

WHEREAS, New York State SBDCs are currently hosted at 13 SUNY campuses, 5 CUNY campuses, Columbia University, and Pace University; the program is administered by the State University of New York and a resource partner, receiving funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those small businesses within the State of New York which distinguish themselves through outstanding professional behavior, corporate innovation, and enduring commitment to the community, and to recognize their contributions to the economic health and vitality of the communities they serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 20, 2024, as Small Business Development Centers Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.