

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE



Michele Abraham

State Director
South Carolina Small Business
Development Centers (SC SBDC)

Michele Abraham has served as the State Director for the South Carolina Small Business Development Centers (SC SBDC) since late January 2010, where she manages a statewide network of expert advisors and professional staff who provide business consulting and training to South Carolina's entrepreneurs and small businesses. During this time she also served for two years as Chair of the National Board of Directors for America's SBDC network.

From 2006 - 2009, Michele worked for the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) serving as the State Director of the Ohio SBDC, one of the five largest SBDCs in the nation. During her tenure there, the Ohio SBDC was recognized nationally by the U.S. Small Business Administration as one of the top programs in the country and honored with a visit from the national Advisory Board.

Michele also served the Ohio ODOD as Chief of Strategic Management, where she developed and implemented an agency-wide strategic management process to ensure accountability to the agency and its stakeholders. Prior to her time at ODOD, Michele worked in the private sector, progressing through positions in sales management, business development, product management, marketing and senior management. She has over 20 years of experience in advanced materials and products for aerospace/aircraft, as well as automotive, sporting goods and other industrial market segments. Her successes include building a mature, stagnant business (Owens Corning) from \$6 million to over \$23 million in annual sales; and guiding a start-up business for Atlantic Research to \$11 million in five years through internal technology development and a series of strategic partnerships, joint ventures and acquisitions. Michele's experience and entrepreneurial spirit also led her to founding and operating two successful businesses