



**Bob Buckhorn, Mayor**

July 7, 2016

Ann W. Madsen  
Executive Director  
The Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women  
305 S. Hyde Park Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33606

Dear Ms. Madsen,

Tampa, Florida is among the top seven metro areas in the nation that have seen the largest increase in entrepreneurial growth in 2016, according to a recently released report by the Kauffman Foundation. The climate for start-ups in our community is particularly welcoming with a number of organizations geared to help individuals start and grow their own businesses.

I am especially proud that Tampa is home to the only SBA-designated Women's Business Centre (WBC) on the West Coast of Florida. The WBC is helping to foster growth, innovation and job creation in our community.

It is, therefore, my pleasure to write in support of The Women's Business Centre at The Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women in Tampa. The number of women who have already benefitted from this resource has been impressive. In the past two years, the WBC has provided training to some 575 women and helped to launch 21 new female-owned businesses.

It is important to have the SBA and the Office of Women's Business Ownership make available resources for female entrepreneurs in Tampa through the WBC. Women face unique challenges in becoming entrepreneurs. The WBC is exactly the kind of resource that will help lift many women out of lower-paying jobs and enable them to attain their financial goals. I am pleased that we have this unique resource to provide free training and one-on-one counseling in our community, and look forward to the Women's Business Centre's continued success.

Sincerely  
  
Bob Buckhorn