

For Immediate Release

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President Galvano Announces Appointments to the Florida Small Business Development Center Network Statewide Advisory Board

Tallahassee—Florida Senate President Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) today announced the appointments of Ms. Marili Cancio, Esq. of Key Biscayne and Mr. John Horne of Bradenton to the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network Statewide Advisory Board.

“Marili’s legal career and community engagement are focused in the areas of business development and private sector job creation. She understands what businesses are looking for when they seek to locate or expand within a community, which will be a great asset as we work to further link Florida’s education programs to jobs needed in growing communities across our state,” said President Galvano.

A member of the Florida Bar for more than 20 years, Ms. Cancio opened Marili Cancio Johnson P.A. in 2011. She concentrates her practice in the areas of corporate, real estate and international law, and counsels large and mid-size companies across diverse industries on a wide range of business matters. She has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Florida College System and on the board of Miami Dade College. Ms. Cancio also serves on the board of the Miami Dade Expressway Authority.

“John Horne is a philanthropic institution in my community,” said President Galvano. “With nearly 40 years of experience in the hospitality industry, including 25 as a small business owner, he has utilized the success and prominence of his business to create innovative educational programs that give back to our community in a very meaningful way.”

Mr. Horne is the President of Anna Maria Oyster Bar (AMOB), a business he founded in 1995. The company has since expanded to include more than 300 employees across four locations in the Bradenton area and is a past recipient of the Small Business of the Year awards from both the Manatee and Sarasota Chambers. Mr. Horne serves on numerous boards including the State College of Florida Board of Trustees and the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association’s State Executive Board. Under his leadership AMOB hosts many education-based partnerships with the Manatee County School District and the Pace Center for Girls.

The SBDC Network State Advisory Board is responsible for advising, counseling and conferring with the CEO of the Florida SBDC Network to ensure the interests of small businesses are represented in the Network's coordinated efforts and investments in small business development and entrepreneurial support services. The Florida SBDC Network links the state's education system with community outreach to aid in the development and education of the state's entrepreneurs and small business community.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov, or <http://FloridaSBDC.org>.