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SOU's Small Business Development Center closing

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ASHLAND, Ore. – Southern Oregon University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is closing its doors after 41 years of service to the Rogue Valley.

The closure follows unsuccessful negotiations between SOU and the state of Oregon to secure continued funding for the program. The university had partnered with Rogue Community College to submit a joint proposal that would have combined the two SBDCs into one regional center, but the state ultimately rejected the plan.

Over the decades, SOU's SBDC has supported more than 11,000 clients, from new entrepreneurs to seasoned business owners, offering free advising, workshops, and training designed to help local businesses start, grow, and thrive.

The center is set to officially close at the end of December, marking the end of an institution that played a major role in Southern Oregon's small business community.

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