Sharon Nichols has served as the State Director of the Mississippi Small Business Development Center in Oxford, MS since fall of 2018 after spending seven years with the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center. She received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Central Oklahoma and an MBA from Northeastern State University. Her certifications include Economic Development Finance Professional, Professional in Human Resources and Certification in Technology Commercialization.

Nichols is a former small business owner, giving her insight into the joys and challenges of entrepreneurs in today's business environment. Under her tutelage, the Mississippi SBDC has won partner of the year from the Small Business Administration, fostered collaborations with state entities such as the Mississippi Secretary of State and partnered with Mississippi State University to create the MSU MS-SBDC Cyber Security Center.