Leadership Biography

Inessa Y. Stepanenko
Deputy District Director
San Antonio District Office
Small Business Administration

Inessa Stepanenko was appointed Deputy District Director of the San Antonio District Office with the U.S. Small Business Administration in October 2023. As a pervious Small Business Owner herself, she is a dynamic and accomplished leader with a solid commitment to public service and a passion for fostering entrepreneurship and economic prosperity.

Deputy Director Stepanenko came to the U.S. Small Business Administration from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security after nine years of service, where she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep understanding of federal operations. She held key roles, including a Section Chief with the Analysis and Integrity Division, a Researcher with the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Research Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and a Program Manager with the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). During her DHS federal career, she gained a reputation for fostering collaboration, streamlining processes, and ensuring effective resource allocation and the ability to navigate complex regulatory frameworks.

Before the federal career, Dr. Stepanenko served as an esteemed member of the Trinity University community in San Antonio, TX as a faculty member and an administrator, contributing to the university's growth and success as the Assistant Director of International Programs and the Instructor of International Studies. She is fluent in several languages and served at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, supporting TeamUSA and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

Dr. Stepanenko holds a Master's in Business Administration with Honors from Our Lady of the Lake University and a Doctorate Degree in Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. Deputy Director Stepanenko holds various certifications, including Lean Six Sigma, which focuses on improving process efficiencies, and the Kirkpatrick model used to measure training initiatives' effectiveness and impact on organizational goals.