

## Mason Supports Veterans



Earlier this year, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe proposed a legislative package for the 2017 General Assembly session designed to ensure Veterans and military families are provided every opportunity for success in the Commonwealth. The package included initiatives encouraging entrepreneurship among former service members.

Working in conjunction with the GMU Office of Government and Community Relations and the Virginia Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs (lead by retired Navy Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr.), the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Community Business Partnership – as part of a larger GMU contingent – addressed the Joint House-Senate Military and Veterans Caucus and participated in an Open House for the Virginia General Assembly.

The Veterans Caucus (co-chaired by Delegate Rich Anderson (R-51<sup>st</sup>) and Senator Bryce Reeves (R-17<sup>th</sup>)) is the leading voice for Veterans in the Virginia General Assembly and assists with sponsoring, tracking and supporting Virginia Veterans' initiatives. It was an honor to represent George Mason University to the caucus and to discuss the many entrepreneurship programs the VBOC and our resource partners provide to the military community throughout the Commonwealth.



Following the caucus, we were joined by representatives from the various schools and offices at GMU that provide programs and support to the military community in an Open House event. In addition to entrepreneurship training and counseling, GMU offers student transition and enrollment services, legal services, and training in nursing, cybersecurity and the arts. The hour flew by and we met with dozens of Senators, Delegates and their staff – and we made a positive impression on behalf of GMU.

*The Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) is a funded program of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and is 1 of 5 centers at Community Business Partnership providing support to small businesses in Fairfax County and beyond. Community Business Partnership is located at 6564 Loisdale Court, Suite 600, Springfield VA 22150. Please visit [www.cbponline.org](http://www.cbponline.org) for additional details.*