



## For Those Who Served

Greetings,

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Black & Veatch, Commerce Bank, Evergy, Metropolitan Community College, TW Sportswear, and the Kansas City VA Medical Center will host the 7th Annual Veteran's Summit: *For Those Who Served* at MCC-Penn Valley, Education Center, 3201 Southwest Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri, 64111.

The event runs from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm** and is designed for veterans and family members, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders in the veteran-owned business community.

Registration and refreshments are from 9:00-9:30 am

### **For Veterans Business Owners, Resource Partners and Others**

We invite you to attend the morning **workshops from 9:30-11:45** where presenters will share information on various topics for veteran entrepreneurs, family members, and aspiring business owners

Lunch is from 12:00-1:00 for all attending the morning session.

### **For Corporations and Resource Groups**

We invite you to participate in the **Networking Event from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.** The purpose of this activity is to share procurement opportunities, how to do business with your organization and to meet with veterans and family members seeking additional resources for specific needs.

Veteran-owned businesses are integral to supplier diversity programs like minority-owned (MBE), women-owned (WBE), HubZone, and LGBTQ business enterprises. Those who served our country would welcome an opportunity to visit with you.

The event is **FREE**, but you must register to **by Tuesday, October 31, 2023 to reserve lunch** for sufficient headcount. Register up to November 15th to attend the Networking event.

**REGISTER TODAY at [mcckc.edu/events/veterans-summit.aspx](http://mcckc.edu/events/veterans-summit.aspx)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, Email [Chris.Kelly@mcckc.edu](mailto:Chris.Kelly@mcckc.edu) or call 816.604.1106.

We look forward to seeing you,



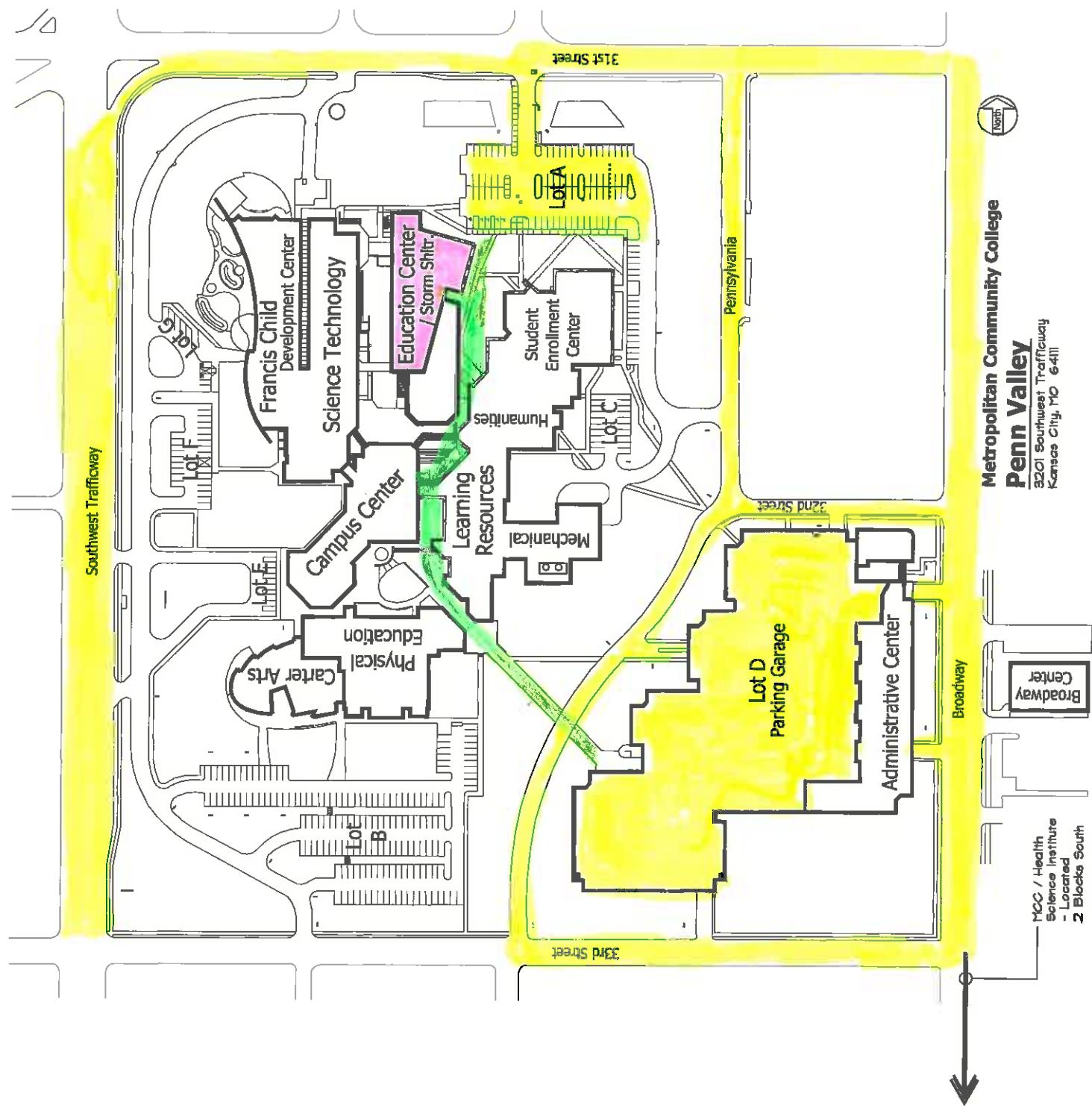
**BLACK & VEATCH**



**METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Kansas City VA Medical Center





## Spotlight Speaker



### Matt Edman

AVP, Workplace Banking  
Implementation Manager  
Retail Sales Management  
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### My Milestones by Commerce™



**Commerce  
Bank™**  
Member FDIC

### Company: Commerce Bank

Matt Edman began his career with Commerce Bank in 2008 while earning his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kansas. He currently serves as the Workplace Banking Implementation Manager, providing partners with financial education and solutions to empower consumers to take control of their finances and help them meet their goals.

Matt also serves as the Board President of Commerce Bank's E2E Foundation. This employee-funded foundation provides financial assistance to employees and their families when faced with catastrophic events or situations out of their control.

Personal finance is a journey; understand where you're going and how to get there. Knowing how to get to your destination starts with exploring where you are, deciding where you want to go, and understanding how to get there. With **My Milestones by Commerce™**, you'll have the tools you need to:

- Understand your relationship with money,
- Explore savvy goal-setting strategies,
- Uncover important financial tactics.

Reach your financial goals, one step at a time. Join **Milestones by Commerce™**, and take control of your finances today!



## Spotlight Speaker

### Company: Maciel Wealth Management

Matt Maciel founded Maciel Wealth Management in 2018 to provide a holistic approach to financial planning, in-depth tax preparation, and amplifying investments. The firm upholds the fiduciary standard and specializes in helping veterans and active duty.



With a strong sense of discipline and commitment instilled through his military service, Matt brings a unique perspective to his role as a financial advisor. After serving in the USMC Reserves, Matt explored other careers before transitioning to his passion in the financial industry. He uses his experience, attention to detail, and problem-solving skills to help clients achieve their financial goals. He works diligently to provide tailored strategies that align with each client's needs and aspirations.

Outside of his professional life, Matt actively supports veterans' causes and community engagement. 2017, he co-founded the Veterans Career Fair to help active duty and veterans find employment. The career fair is the largest veteran career fair in the metro, and it has raised thousands of dollars for veteran nonprofits and helped hundreds find employment. He also serves on the Johnson County Christmas Bureau board.

#### Workshop Objectives:

- Empower veterans with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve financial stability.
- Make informed financial decisions.
- Successfully navigate the unique financial challenges they may encounter while transitioning to civilian life.

By the end of this presentation, veterans will clearly understand critical financial concepts, available resources, and actionable steps to take control of their financial future.





## Spotlight Speaker



### Gary Walker

Founder  
1601 SW Jefferson St.  
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

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<http://www.monkeybrainart.org>



### Company: Monkey Brain Art

**Mission:** To use art creation, meditation, and mindfulness to calm the unsettled minds of veterans, first responders, and nurses with PTSD (and their caregivers) to help them better cope with their condition.

Gary Walker is a Disabled Air Force Veteran who served from 1983 to 1990 and was stationed in West Germany, was injured in the line of duty, and was awarded the Air Force Commendation and Achievement medals.

MBA, located in Kansas City, Missouri, blends art creation, meditation, and mindfulness to help veterans, first responders, and nurses find their calm and heal their unsettled minds from the devastating effects of PTSD. This is achieved through the presentation of free art and photography courses. The founders and most of the instructors – all artists in their own right – have PTSD themselves, enabling them to relate to course participants on a deep, personal level since they've been there and struggled with the same demons.

**History of the Organization:** MBA, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in January 2021. The first course was offered in June of 2021, and three courses took place that year. The organization has multiplied; twelve studies will be presented in 2022. MBA added four-week photography courses this year, three of which will take place in 2023.

MBA's art and photography courses, which have an average of 12 students each, are free for veterans, first responders, and nurses with PTSD and their "caregivers" (the VA's term for spouses and other supporters).

#### Workshop Objectives:

- Learn how to find your calm
- Reconnect with community
- Have mandatory fun



## Spotlight Speaker



### Jade Lawrence, LMSW

Social Worker  
Post 9/11 Military to VA (M2VA)  
Transition Patient Advocate  
816-898-8540

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Kansas City VA Medical Center

### Company: KC VA Hospital

Jade Lawrence is a United States Army Veteran who served as an Active Duty Military Intelligence Officer. She was primarily stationed at the Army National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA, which primarily serves as a training ground for deploying Brigades and Joint-Operations. She witnessed first-hand the impact high operational tempo can have on a service member's health and well-being. Though Jade intended to serve longer, she medically separated in 2018. Her transition to Veteran status was not easy, and the experience influenced Jade to return to school to get her Master of Social Work and license as tools to help her fellow Veterans. She sought a job at the KCVA Hospital, where she currently serves as the Transition and Patient Advocate for the **Post 9/11 Military to VA (M2VA) Integrated Case Management Program**.

Every VA medical center has a specialized Post 9/11 M2VA team that will assist Veterans in navigating the VA healthcare system and support them in achieving their health and wellness goals. The Post 9/11 M2VA team is trained in addressing the unique needs of reintegrating service members and Post 9/11 era Veterans, and they do this by:

- Collaborating with DoD and community partners to facilitate the Veteran's transition to the VA health care system
- Educating Veterans on VA eligibility, benefits, and services.
- Providing transition and reintegration assistance.
- Applying a holistic approach to care planning, including integration of Whole Health.
- Facilitating a transition of care in the event of relocation to another VA facility.
- Educating and outreach to DoD and community partners on the VA system and challenges unique to Post 9/11 era Veterans.

**Workshop objective-** Educate attendees on the VA's Post 9/11 Military to VA (M2VA) Integrated Case Management Program and how it can positively impact Veteran's reintegration into civilian life.



# Spotlight Speaker

## Company: KC VA Hospital



### Marvin (Moe) Morris

Acting Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer (CD/O)  
I\*DEA Influencer Program Manager  
Kansas City VA Medical Center, VISN 15

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Kansas City VA Medical Center

Mr. Marvin (Moe) Morris (he/him/his) serves as the Deputy Diversity & Inclusion Officer (DDIO) at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, further establishing the IDEA team within the VA.

Before employment at the KCVA, Mr. Morris was a Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force as Chief of Diagnostic Imaging, Computed Tomography, Ultrasound, and MRI. He is a trained combat medic with deployments to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Morris is the son of a military family with over 85 years of combined service.

While stationed in England, Mr. Morris served as president of the 48th Fighter Wing's Diversity and Inclusion Council, where his team developed the first discussion series, Finding Comfort in Discomfort, a program focused on opening lines of communication across the 5,000-plus personnel on the installation. Mr. Morris also conducted training courses for 100 supervisors on best facilitating discussions surrounding DEI. He has instructed military and civilian leaders on Cultural Competency, Implicit Bias, and Microaggressions in the workplace. Mr. Morris worked with leadership and special observance teams to produce representation plans that were funded for all observances and holidays.

KCVA's IDEA Mission: To champion an organizational culture of respect and belonging that values every individual through maximizing diversity, strengthening equity, ensuring access, and optimizing inclusion. Our Commitment

- Collaborate with KCVA and community partners to enhance recruitment, hiring, promotion, and retention of employees with diverse experiences and identities.
- Provide support to Veterans and employees with diverse experiences and identities through training, educational programming, and consultation related to issues of inclusion, equity, and access.
- Educate and partner, consult, and collaborate with KCVA partners to effectively build, incorporate, and manage IDEA initiatives throughout the organization.
- Work with senior leadership in designing and implementing institution-wide changes to ensure IDEA is a focus throughout our organization.



## Spotlight Speaker

### Company: TW Custom Branding



#### Gabrielle Winterboer

Graphic Designer  
816-532-5010

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<https://twcustombranding.com/>

TW Custom Branding is a veteran and woman-of-color-owned organization. We are proud to serve KC through community service and outreach actively. We provide branding, signage, apparel, embroidery, business cards, and promotional items. Our roots began as a small business, and therefore, we love partnering with our fellow local KC small business owners to help get them recognized beyond the metro.

We want to help get your company recognized! Our mission is to help you further strengthen your brand image to solidify your business' local presence and identity. Whether it be new storefront signage, company uniforms, or window decals to make your city street business shine, we look forward to helping you put your best foot forward.

Gabrielle Winterboer is a graphic designer specializing in digital marketing at TW Custom Branding. In her workshop she will be tackling the sometimes-overwhelming process of developing a company image and how TW Custom Branding can use digital tools to simplify your life. Furthermore, Gabrielle will discuss what branding strategies you should consider investing in for your target audience.



For all those who are needing branding help - look no further! This crash course will help you market, sophisticate, and grow your business.



## Spotlight Speaker



### Mitch Fitzpatrick

VBOC Director  
Training and Outreach  
314-371-6696

[fitzpatrick@vetbiz.com](mailto:fitzpatrick@vetbiz.com)

<https://vetbiz.com/>

### Company: VetBiz

Mitchell Fitzpatrick is a Kansas City native with leadership skills cultivated by a military lifestyle. Always in pursuit of more learning opportunities and ways to better the organization. He served eight years as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army. His current responsibility is to connect and equip veterans and spouses with invaluable business resources.

As a veteran, Mitchell is passionate about equipping and connecting veterans and spouses to the right resources. He is the Director of Training and Outreach for the VetBiz (VBOC) team. VetBiz is a nonprofit organization that assists Honorably Discharged Veterans, National Guard, and Reservists, transitioning military and their families with starting and expanding businesses. Fitzpatrick's goal is to strengthen communities by building veteran solid businesses.

#### Workshop Objectives:

- Importance of connecting locally
- Veteran and military spouse-owned success stories
- No cost resources to jumpstart your business



## Caterer



### Taylor Elizabeth

Owner/Lead Designer  
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Kansas City, MO

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<https://www.taylorelizabethcakes.com/>

*Taylor* ELIZABETH  
CAKES

### Company: Taylor Elizabeth Cakes

Taylor is a 30-something, girl mom and wife that has been baking wedding cakes for 10 plus years. She learned the trade from her father who was the executive pastry chef at crown center for 22 years. She ran his bakeries for many years until stepping out to create her brand.

When she is not baking, Taylor loves spending time with her family, especially her daughter. "She's seriously the sweetest toddler ever!"

#### Summit menu:

- Baked Chicken
- Garlic Mashed Potato
- Seasoned Green Bean
- Garden Salad
- Vegetarian Option- Corn Chowder Soup
- Roll
- Dessert bar or cookie