

VBOC Promotes Veteran Entrepreneurship



National Veterans Small Business Week (Oct 30 – Nov 3, 2017), now in its fourth year, raises awareness of Veteran business ownership and encourages communities to support businesses owned by individuals in the military and Veteran

communities. It also inspires business support and mentorship within the Veteran and military community, while connecting these business owners to entrepreneurship resources administered through SBA and its stakeholders.

To promote Veteran entrepreneurship in the National Capital region, the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Community Business Partnership (CBP) hosted a 2-day agribusiness workshop that covered the fundamentals of small business start-up as well as observations and insights for getting started in agribusiness.



Really? Agribusiness in the DMV?



Many military recruits come from rural communities - and return to those rural communities after service - so it is in the U.S. economic and national security interests to enable small business ownership in agribusiness. The U.S. agriculture sector extends beyond large-acreage farm businesses to include a range of farm-related industries and agriculture supported economies. Taken broadly, agribusiness includes the business sectors that support, and are supported by, agriculture. Restaurants and breweries are obvious examples, but so too are small town barber shops, hair and nail salons, day care

centers, coffee shops and bookstores that serve the local (albeit mostly rural) communities. But agribusiness isn't restricted to rural areas – roof top gardens, vertical farms, beekeeping, aquaponics and hydroponics, composting, farmer's markets and farm-to-table initiatives, etc., make this an urban endeavor as well.

So, yes, agribusiness! And that's why we created this 2-day workshop to bring together a variety of local farmers, federal agency representatives, lenders and resource partners to provide insight and guidance on the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and getting started in agribusiness. And the fun didn't stop there...

Veteran entrepreneurship events continued throughout November with Veterans Day observances being held the



weekend of Nov 10th – 12th. Other events included a 2-day Boots to Business workshop for our U.S. Coast Guard friends, the Capital Area Franchise Fair, a Veteran Entrepreneurship webinar hosted by AARP, a Veterans Storytelling graduation show created by the Armed Services Arts Partnership and hosted at the Drafthouse Comedy Club in DC, a Small Business Boot Camp hosted by the DC Mayors Office of Veteran Affairs, a Veterans Social Entrepreneurship panel at George Mason University compliments of the Mason Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Mason Enterprise Center, Business at the Brewery (co-host by Fair Winds Brewing Company and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Small Business Saturday) and much, much more...



Do you want to become an entrepreneur? The best way to get started is by attending our free one hour orientation so that you are aware of all the resources Community Business Partnership has to offer - all at low or no cost. You can register for our orientation and view our full class listing at <http://www.cbponline.org/Business-Training/Class-Calendar.aspx>

The VBOC at CBP is one of 20 SBA VBOC grantees located across the U.S. The centers are designed to provide small business training and counseling to transitioning military service members and all era Veterans and their families. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/communitybusinesspartnership/>

