

VBOC Recognized for Service to the Community



The Small Business Administration recently announced that the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Community Business Partnership (CBP) has been selected as their 2018 VBOC of the Year.

CBP has a long history of supporting Veteran business owners with events like the annual Veterans in Business Conference (now in its 13th year), Veterans' peer group roundtables and the monthly Objective Rally Point Veterans networking breakfast. Receiving the designation as a VBOC in 2015 has allowed them to offer more services to a larger client network.

Our VBOC Director, Charles McCaffrey, began teaching the Entrepreneurship Track at MCCS Henderson Hall in late 2012 to a class of 6 soon-to-be Veterans. Through the hard work and dedication of the staff, the VBOC was able to present 38 Boots to Business workshops to 775 members of the military community in DC, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) in 2017. Additionally, they presented 6 Reboot workshops including 3 in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; including being the first to coordinate and host a Boots to Agribusiness workshop specific to urban farming in the DMV. With a struggling economy and high concentration of Veterans, these Reboots have had an impact on the local business community; and have fostered greater collaboration with the VBOC, the SBA resource partners and the local Veteran community.



While their primary mission is to support the Boots to Business program, the VBOC staff is regularly called on by Veteran business owners for follow-on training and counseling due to their expertise, professionalism and prior military experience. To this end, the VBOC hosted an additional 60 small business classes with 970 attendees and conducted 457 total hours of counseling with 396 small business owners in 2017.

Finally, none of this would be possible without significant outreach and collaboration with SBA Resource Partners, other Veteran Service Organizations and local Economic Development Partners. Due to proximity to the nation's capital (and SBA Headquarters), the VBOC staff is regularly called on to support Veteran-related events in the area and they are tireless in their efforts to "say yes" to as many opportunities to promote the SBA and the VBOC as possible. In 2017, they supported 64 outreach events providing insight and guidance to over 10,000 small business owners. They have also been actively engaged with the Dog Tag Fellowship program, the Armed Services Arts Partnership, the Veterans in Procurement (VIP) program, Project Opportunity of Maryland, the American Legion, MOAA, AARP, TechShop and the annual Capital Area Franchise Fair.

The VBOC staff will be recognized for their accomplishments at a ceremony in Washington, DC, on April 29th.

And if that wasn't enough...



Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7327 and Auxiliary hosts a local awards ceremony to recognize individuals and organizations that show great patriotism and support for the Springfield Community. At the ceremony on March 17th, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Veterans Committee was recognized with the Community Patriotic Award which was accepted by Charles McCaffrey, chair of the committee.

Congratulations to the VBOC at CBP and the Greater Springfield Chamber Veterans Committee for a job well done!