

## VBOC Director Recognized as Outstanding Boots to Business Instructor of the Year

Our military Veterans have made priceless contributions to the peace and security of our nation. During a Hiring Our Heroes event on Camp Pendleton, CA on September 29<sup>th</sup>, the SBA Office of Veteran Business Development (OVBD) recognized 5 instructors for their expertise, their dedication and for their skill at inspiring so many Veterans to pursue their dream of business ownership. **Our very own VBOC Director, Charles McCaffrey, was among this honored group.** Each year, thousands of Veterans transition to civilian life. Many of them decide to use the discipline, skills and leadership abilities they cultivated while in the military to build a small business. Entrepreneurship is how many Veterans take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the U.S. economy.

Many of these seasoned or new Veteran entrepreneurs learned the basics of business ownership at a Boots to Business training course. Boots to Business gives military service members and their spouses the opportunity to explore business ownership, helps them evaluate the feasibility of their business concepts and connects the aspiring business owners to the Small Business Administration's network of resource partners.



Figure 1: CBP VBOC Director, Charles McCaffrey, second from the right, receives his award for Outstanding Boots to Business Instructor.

SBA resource partners - which include Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC), Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Women's Business Centers (WBC), SCORE, and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University - deliver the Boots to Business program around the world. This year the Boots to Business program reached a milestone, having trained more than 50,000 transitioning service members and their spouses since the program began in 2013.

Charles McCaffrey joined Community Business Partnership (CBP) in 2012 and served as Director of the Business Incubation Center (2012-2013) and Director, South Fairfax Small Business Development Center (2013-2015) before being named as Director of the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) in June 2015. In addition to continuing to teach the Boots to Business program himself, this year he coordinated with the SBA Washington District Office, the SBA Baltimore District Office, the SBA Puerto Rico District Office, the Virginia SBDC network, the Virgin Islands SBDC, DC SCORE, the DC and MD SBDC and the MD WBC to hold 27 Boots to Business workshops on 14 military installations across the DMV as well as supported 5 Reboot workshops – including the first ever in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. And they are already committed to conducting 38 Boots to Business workshops on 14 military installations in 2017.

We would like to congratulate Charles on this prestigious award and thank him for his dedication and continued service to the military community!