

# The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp *for Veterans with Disabilities*



Prepared for:

*American Council on Education*  
*June 6, 2008*



# **Entrepreneurship: *A Way Forward***

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## ***The Facts:***

- **Self-employment is (*and always has been*) an avenue for veterans to advance themselves, support their families, and to engage their communities.**
- **Of the approximately eighty million small businesses in the United States, four million (about five percent) are veteran-owned (*Small Business Administration, 2007*).**
- **The success rate of veteran business startups is high in comparison to other business startups, partially due to the experience the veterans have gained in the Armed Services (*Small Business Administration, 2007*).**
- **Americans with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be self-employed than the general population (*US Census*).**
- **And the intangibles... *'sole custody of your future'***

# **Entrepreneurship: *A Way Forward***

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## ***The Challenge:***

- **Starting a business is hard...most fail.**
- **Programs and resources focused on training our veterans and people with disabilities in entrepreneurship and small business management are limited.**
- **Without demonstrated skills & training, access to capital is difficult.**
- **Enter *Syracuse University*...**

# **The EBV: Scholarship in Action**

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- *A Program designed to make a difference:*
  - *World-class training in entrepreneurship and small business*
  - *Absolutely free to veterans with disabilities, funded privately*
  - *3 Phase/14 month intervention*
  - *Designed to both educate and motivate...create an experience*



# The EBV: *Scholarship in Action*

- **A Difference...*one hero at a time***

- **EBV Class #1:**

- *20 students*
    - *Representing 14 states*
    - *All four military service branches*
    - *Average age is 26*
    - *Each with a service connected disability AND...*
    - *A passion for entrepreneurship...*





# ***EBV Consortium of Schools: Program***

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## **Phase 1: EBV Online** *(approx. 20 calendar days):*

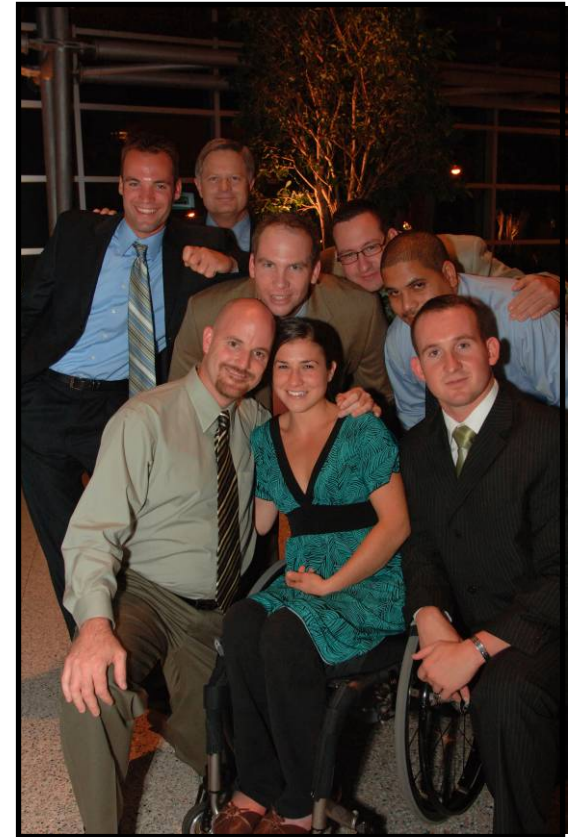
- Innovation, online course
- Staffed by faculty and MBA students
- Focused on business fundamentals
- Textbooks donated by Prentice-Hall & McGraw-Hill

## **Phase 2: EBV Residency** *(approx. 8 calendar days):*

- Classroom-based course
- An 'experience'
- Designed to educate and motivate

## **Phase 3: Mentorship** *(ongoing):*

- Virtual Mentorship via online portal
- Content area experts
- Local mentor initiative



# The EBV: *Scholarship in Action*

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- **A Difference...one hero at a time**
  - **EBV Class #1...6 months later:**
    - 16 of 20 actively engaged with EBV (business plan, mentorship, etc)
    - Many without college have enrolled
    - 6 new businesses created
    - 3 SBA loans pending
    - 1 accepted in Lockheed small business mentorship program
    - 1 applied/accepted to law school at SU



# *Our Way Forward:* *The EBV Consortium of Schools*

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To advance entrepreneurship as means to open the door to business ownership opportunities for veterans with disabilities, and to design and deliver educational programs to assist veterans with disabilities in the many steps and activities associated with creating and sustaining an entrepreneurial venture.

**Whitman**  
SCHOOL *of* MANAGEMENT  

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**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

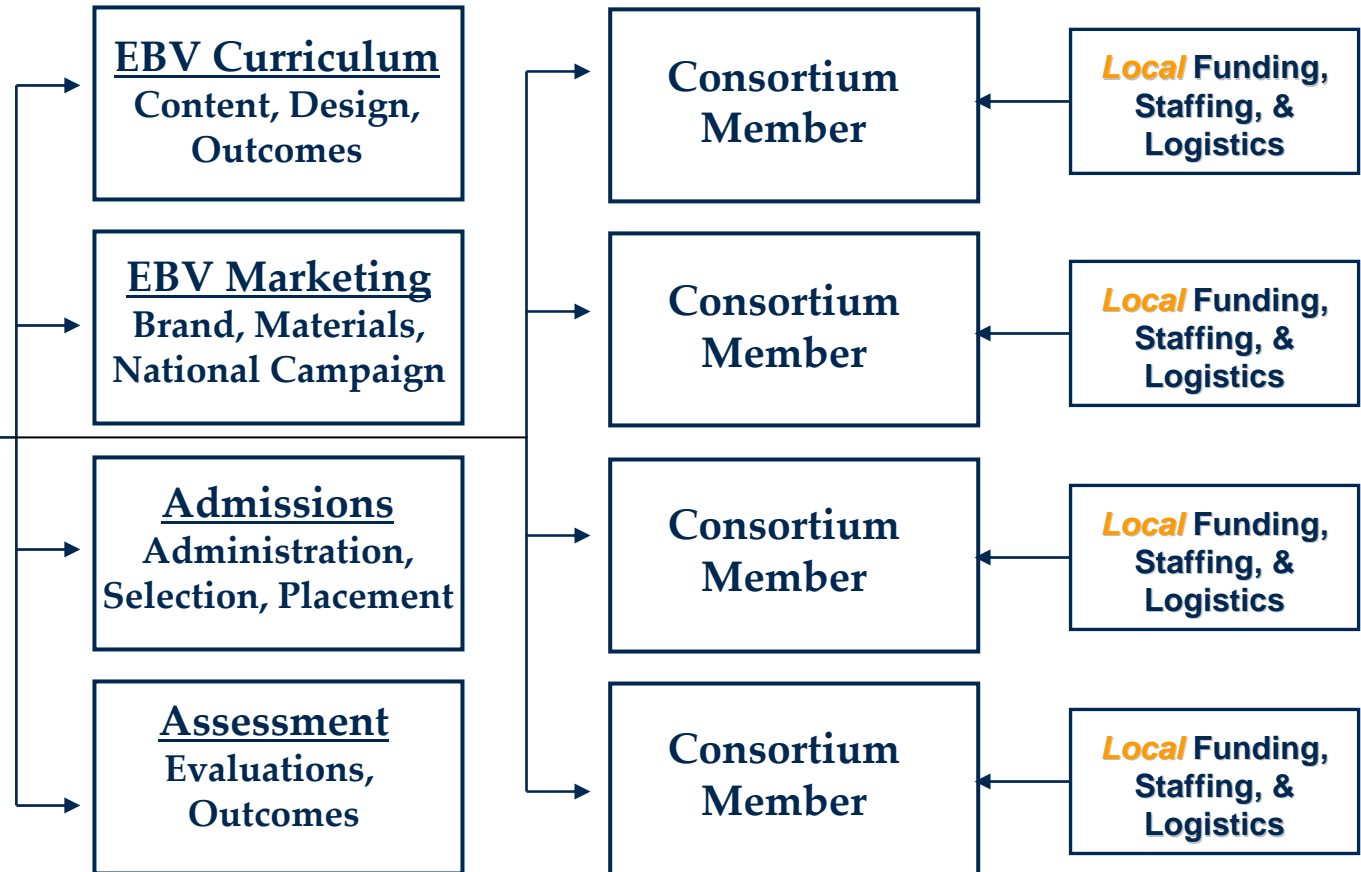
**UCLAAnderson**  
School of Management





# *EBV Consortium of Schools: Organization*

**Whitman**  
SCHOOL of MANAGEMENT  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



# Questions?



**“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, is directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated.”**

**- General George Washington, 1777**