The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp
for Veterans with Disabilities

Prepared for:

American Council on Education
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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’
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

• 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

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

• 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
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.
EBV Consortium of Schools: Organization

- EBV Curriculum: Content, Design, Outcomes
- EBV Marketing: Brand, Materials, National Campaign
- Admissions: Administration, Selection, Placement
- Assessment: Evaluations, Outcomes

Consortium Member

Local Funding, Staffing, & Logistics

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“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